



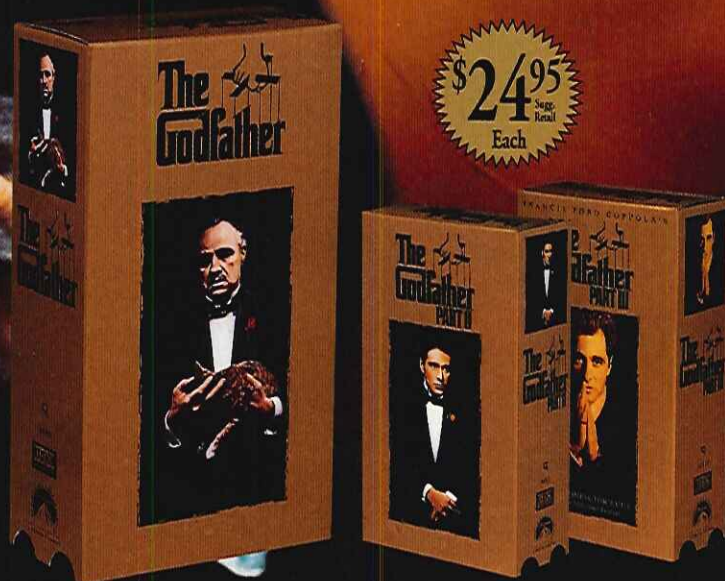
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R NOTHING

ERICA'S PRIME-TIME COMEDY KING

WRITTEN BY
KRISTEN BALDWIN,
MIKE FLAHERTY,
A.J. JACOBS,
MARY KAY SCHILLING,
AND KEN TUCKER

EIGHT YEARS INTO THE SHOW, Julia Louis-Dreyfus' Elaine Benes articulated the essence of *Seinfeld* quite nicely. She was exasperated with her good buddy Jerry Seinfeld—nothing new there; the glue that holds their relationship together is exasperation, alternately amused and angry. But this time, Elaine felt a summing-up was called for; she needed to make a grand expostulation, and so she did, by proclaiming "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event!"

But of course, excruciating minutiae are what this show exists to examine, to fuss over, to spin comedic gold from. And Elaine *will* keep coming into that stinking apartment (which, by the way, probably smells more like still-misty Lysol, given Jerry's pathological cleanliness) for as long as *Seinfeld* exists. She can't help it; she loves Jerry, George Costanza (Jason Alexander), and Cosmo Kramer (Michael Richards) every bit as much as she sometimes loathes them. And besides, after a first-rate season like the one just concluded, who can deny that the comedic aroma of apartment 5A is still powerfully piquant?

Before you cut into the meat of this special *Seinfeld* package—a complete episode guide to the series' run so far and interviews with the characters behind the scenes—it behooves us to think for a minute about the nature of friendship as it is reflected, fractured, and ground into the dirt by Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer. The bond between these niggling, nudging four musketeers (their battle cry might be "All for one and one for me!") is a group dynamic rooted in jealousy, rage, insecurity, despair, hopelessness, and a touching lack of faith in one's fellow human beings.

For a show whose plots often turn on the surreal (this season's the-gang-goes-to-a-cockfight episode; the one where George has a little place built underneath his desk to escape the world; Elaine meeting the Bizarro Jerry, George, and Kramer), it has been the distinctive achievement of cocreators Seinfeld and Larry David to offer us a portrait of late-20th-century urban friendship that is actually more *realistic* than any ever created on a television series, sitcom, or drama. (It should also be noted here that the '96-'97 season just past was *Seinfeld*'s first without the writing of David. If the post-David *Seinfeld* now lacks that subtle degree of manic angst that distinguished his best work, the

show has made up for it with an increase in belly laughs as solid as any the series has produced.)

Like lots of good pals, Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer are acutely, quiveringly attuned to each other's strengths and weaknesses. They understand in their very different bones that someone you know well is also someone you can fight with, argue over, and sell out far more effectively than a mere acquaintance, or even an enemy. (That's why Wayne Knight's Newman is such a slippery recurring foe for our gang; he's not in their loop—he's the malicious, blubbery Other.) These chums are united by common quests—for money, for romance, for the perfect apartment. There's a whiff of desperation about the foursome's need for one another (maybe *that's* what's stinking up Jerry's apartment), which is more than a little pathetic. But that it is made *hilariously* pathetic gives the show its unique sitcom tension.

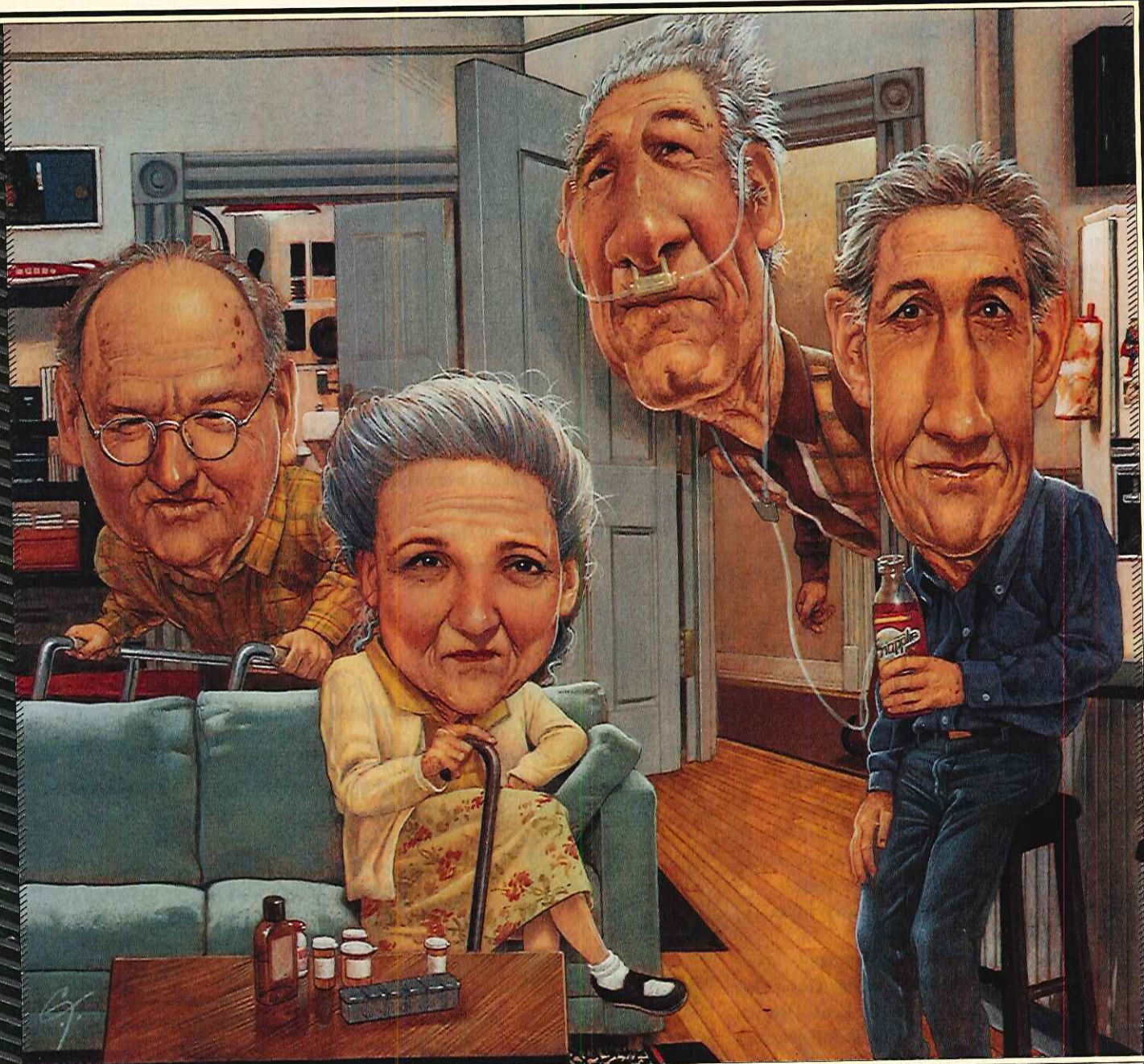
Let's break down the particulars of their codependency:

JERRY, because of his career as a successful stand-up, is the most outwardly normal of the bunch and the most at ease with the everyday world. But just below his easygoing smirk lie distrust, misanthropy ("I hate everybody!" he once exulted), and lowbrow taste. ("You know, it is so sad," Elaine has said to him. "All of your knowledge of high culture comes from Bugs Bunny cartoons.") Jerry's most frequent position within the foursome is to be genially aloof, the sardonic commentator on the peculiar actions of his amigos. Jerry needs them to be active so that he can remain passive.

GEORGE, or as Jerry says, "George Louis Costanza, my oldest friend," is a fervid loser: Pathologically dishonest ("I lie every second of the day. My whole life is a sham," he has admitted more than once), stingy (hates to pick up a check or chip in for a taxi), and insecure (bald, short, pudgy). Then, too, he is—read into this what you will, remote-control Freudians—obsessed with the bathroom, a throne for the king of "privacy issues." But George's most consistent trait is his breathtaking selfishness. If the characters in *Seinfeld* confirm middle America's notion of what New Yorkers are like—one reason for the show's heartland success, I'm convinced—George deserves to be mayor.

ELAINE, Jerry's former girlfriend, and a single woman who can't settle on a career, is nonetheless the most admirable of this bunch for her sheer enthusiasm, aggression (Jerry calls her "The Queen of Confrontation"), and pick-yourself-up pluck. This, even though romance always lets her down: Where Jerry primarily dates beautiful, levelheaded women who dump him most often for being a supercilious drag, Elaine goes out with a ceaseless procession of loser weirdos (Crazy Joe Davola; the doctor who held her tongue between his fingers on a date; the pompous Maestro), thus unconsciously guaranteeing her continued association with Jerry, George, and Kramer.

THE BOND BETWEEN THESE NIGGLING, NUDGING FO
JEALOUSY, RAGE, INSECURITY, HOPELESSNESS, AND A TO



KRAMER is a volcano with a bad hairdo, always ready to blow—with petulant anger, with pent-up libido (ever notice that only Elaine or the K-man regularly partake of sex for the sheer, guilt-free pleasure of it?), or with mad joy over his latest harebrained moneymaking scheme. A moocher with morals (who else would adopt a stretch of highway just so he could keep it clean?), he's actually quite brilliant in his steadfast adherence to his own code of behavior, less idiot than savant. Richards himself got to the heart of Kramer when he told the *Los Angeles Times* re-

ILLUSTRATION BY C.F. PAYNE

cently, "The real key came about eight or nine shows in. I had been playing Kramer as if he were slow-witted—always one step behind.... Then I learned to play Kramer as if he were blocks ahead of what everyone's saying, and I had him." ("That's karma," Elaine once said, describing some unforeseen debacle. "No, that's Kramer," replied Jerry.)

These are our friends, our dear anti-*Friends*. What say we all open a new box of cereal, pass around some bowls, and relive the good times? —Ken Tucker

**OUR MUSKETEERS IS A GROUP DYNAMIC ROOTED IN
UCHING LACK OF FAITH IN ONE'S FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS**

THE SEINFELD CHRONICLES

AN OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE VIEWER'S GUIDE TO ALL 148⁺ EPISODES
BY MIKE FLAHERTY & MARY KAY SCHILLING

"I WOULD COMPARE WRITING SEINFELD TO WRITING THE TALMUD—A DARK TALMUD. YOU HAVE A LOT OF BRILLIANT MINDS EXAMINING A THOUGHT OR ETHICAL QUESTION FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE."

THUS SPAKE ONETIME SEINFELD WRITER LARRY Charles. And upon reaching the end of our exhausting, exhilarating quest—to view, synopsise, and critique all eight seasons of the most successful, irreverent, and giddily unpredictable sitcom of its time—we find more than a little resonance in Charles' Talmudic analogy. In documenting the travails of Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer, we have, in fact, delineated the history of a long-suffering people. Far from being about nothing, it's a tale rich with small triumphs, eternal truths, and dogged struggles in the face of an indifferent world.

It's a story that was almost never told. NBC originally passed on *Seinfeld* after test audiences deemed the 1989 pilot episode "weak." It only lives thanks to Rick Ludwin, NBC senior VP of specials and late night, whose faith was so strong he gave of his own budget to create four more episodes, which aired in the summer of '90. By January 1991, *Seinfeld* was a mid-season replacement, inaugurating an uninterrupted six-year run that culminated in its current Must See Thursday slot.

And now, as the cast—well paid though stingily honored (only nine Emmys, including one for Best Comedy, two for Richards, one for Louis-Dreyfus, and two for writing)—prepares for its ninth season, *Seinfeld* has, indeed, evolved into something as close to a religion as pop culture allows. The 30



COMEDY ROOTS

IN '89, BEFORE KRAMER'S HAIR WENT NORTH, BELOW, JERRY'S ROLE MODEL. AS GEORGE ONCE POINTED OUT, "JERRY IS A MAN WHOSE LIFE REVOLVES AROUND SUPERMAN AND CEREAL."



million or so who watch fresh episodes on Thursday nights have made it a top five Nielsen show for four consecutive years—and enabled NBC to retain its No. 1 standing. The millions who catch reruns have propelled it to No. 5 in national syndication. Such numbers bespeak a fervent following, bent on studying, dissecting, and interpreting *Seinfeld*'s bizarre dogma. To wit: **INERTIA SHALL PREVAIL.** Despite the foursome's many trials, no lessons are learned, no maturing allowed. "That's part of the key to the show," says

Seinfeld. Adds Charles: "The characters *gleefully* do not grow." **NOTHING IS SACRED.** Not the hearing impaired, the mentally and physically challenged, priests, rabbis, any number of ethnic groups, constipation, oral sex, or onanism.

NO GOOD EVER COMES FROM HELPING ONE'S FELLOW MAN. Witness the results of Jerry's efforts on behalf of restaurateur Babu Bhatt, Kramer's support of a local shoe-repair shop, and George's helping hand to a haberdashery's security guard.

LOOK TO THE PAST FOR INSPIRATION (HEY, ABBOTT!). Though praised for boundary-breaking modernity, Seinfeld readily admits that his show's sensibility was forged some 40 years ago: "It [wasn't] conscious," he says, "but when we got into the swing of the show, we

realized, This is like *The Abbott and Costello Show* from '51 to '52." Bud and Lou's spirit is evident in everything from *Seinfeld*'s dizzily deadpan comic rhythm to its wacky array of maligned bureaucrats and wrathful fruit vendors and barbers.

DEATH BE NOT BAD. The only thing stranger than death's prominence is the utter lack of compassion it elicits.

NO REASON IS TOO TRIVIAL FOR BREAKING UP, whether it's stinginess with punctuation or being beaten in chess. The list goes on and on (see page 37).

A SHORT, STOCKY, SLOW-WITTED BALD MAN CAN BE A CHICK MAGNET. Fact: George Costanza—self-proclaimed loser

among losers—has dated a wide array of fetching women. A contradiction that Seinfeld refuses to explain: "You don't take apart the frog to see how he jumps."

THE CRAZIEST PERSON IS THE SANEST OF ALL. Ostensibly the resident weirdo (a.k.a. "hipster doofus"), Kramer may actually be the most together. Seinfeld concurs: "He knows what he wants and goes after it. He's not reflective...he's got peace of mind. We secretly envy him."

Kramer's the least of *Seinfeld*'s ironies. We are, after all, celebrating a hit show revolving around four venal, dishonest, selfish, even hateful people. "That's become very vogue to say, but that's only on one level," notes Seinfeld. "There's a great warmth beneath the surface of these characters. Just the fact of what we forgive each other shows you that."

And the fact that we keep coming back for more. Bear in mind that the following synopses are mere sketches, mental benchmarks for your viewing pleasure. If we had fully detailed each labyrinthine episode, you'd be holding a book, not a magazine. And, no doubt, you will quibble with our harsher critiques. But why should we be any less judgmental than the show's four minutiae-minded harpies? We have, after all, been remade in their image. —MF

-SEASON ONE-

EPISODE 1

THE SEINFELD CHRONICLES

FIRST AIRED 7/5/89 **WRITERS** Larry David/
Jerry Seinfeld **DIR.** Art Wolff **SYNOPSIS** Bearing the sitcom's original title, "The Seinfeld Chronicles," TV's longest-running art-imitates-life eavesdrop begins minus Elaine, with a different theme, a hangout called Pete's Luncheonette, a flat-topped Kramer, and Jerry living in a studio (with a skylight!). What is firmly in place is the trademark show-about-nothing concept, by which plot points serve largely as launchpads for the loopy, nit-picky digressions that occupy these friends. As with many of the early episodes, it's heavily punctuated with clips from Jerry's "Did you ever notice this, did you ever notice that" stand-up routine—apparently meant to drive home the connection between his reality and his shtick. The comic MacGuffin here is Jerry's anxiety over the impending overnight visit of a woman he met while gigging in Michigan: Is it a love connection or just a friendly crash? **CRITIQUE** On the downside, the George and Kramer characters are woefully unformed; George's whiny neurotic is a blatant Woody Allen rip-off, and

Kramer's dazed inarticulate dolt a veritable nod to Harpo Marx. Still, while no classic, the initial outing is surprisingly fresh after all these years. **B**

EPISODE 2

THE STAKEOUT

FIRST AIRED 5/31/90 **WRITERS** David/
Seinfeld **DIR.** Tom Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry offers to attend a birthday party with ex-girlfriend, now buddy Elaine Marie Benes (he'll do it if she'll accompany him to a dreaded family wedding—establishing the there's-always-a-catch element to Jerry's friendships). At the party, our hero becomes infatuated with Vanessa (Lynn Clarke), a friend of a friend of Elaine's. Due to post-breakup politics, he feels he can't ask Elaine for Vanessa's number, and is reduced to lingering outside her office. **INTRODUCES** Jerry's parents, Helen (Liz Sheridan) and beltless-trench-coat inventor

Morty (Phil Bruns, soon to be replaced by Barney Martin). **HISTORIC MOMENTS** Debut of mainstay director Cherones, apartment 5A, the show's distinctive, funky-percussive theme song (written by Jonathan Wolff), and Liar Boy George's all-purpose pseudonym and sometime alter ego, Art Vandelay—usually an importer-exporter. **CRITIQUE** A painfully realistic take on the lovers-to-friends transition that should have been more comically fruitful. **B-**

EPISODE 3

THE ROBBERY

FIRST AIRED 6/7/90 **WRITER** Matt Goldman **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Real estate agent George offers Jerry a shot at a dream pad—then decides he wants it too. Elaine—forever in search of the perfect apartment—stands to inherit Jerry's place if he moves. Typically, by episode's end, everybody loses. **HISTORIC MOMENT** First real entrance from Kramer. **CRITIQUE** Worth it for Jerry and George—who, as usual, attempt to resolve conflict in the most adolescent manner possible: by "choosing." **B**

EPISODE 4

MALE UNBONDING

FIRST AIRED 6/14/90 **WRITERS** David/
Seinfeld **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** The initial exploration of the male-friendship-as-relationship motif, as Jerry decides to "break up" with tiresome, self-involved Joel (Kevin Dunn) but can't bring himself to do it. **CRITIQUE** A pointed look at a staple dysfunction: These are four people who can't shut up, yet loathe actual communication. (George: "She says, 'We have to talk.'" Jerry: "The four worst words in the English language.") **B+**

EPISODE 5

THE STOCK TIP

FIRST AIRED 6/21/90 **WRITERS** David/
Seinfeld **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** See George persuade Jerry to invest \$2,500 in a stock he heard about from a Wall Street contact. See Jerry panic and pull out after losing a mint. See George hang tough and reap a windfall. See allergic Elaine lose out to new beau Robert's cats. **HISTORIC MOMENT** The Superman leitmotiv debuts with two references to Jerry's favorite comic-book hero. **CRITIQUE** Weighed down by a ho-hum main plot—achingly familiar from sitcoms past and insufficiently warped here. **C**

ELAINE ON JERRY:

“You know, sometimes when I think you're the shallowest man I've ever met, you somehow manage to drain a little more out of the pool.”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK SUMMERS

-SEASON TWO-

EPISODE 6 THE EX-GIRLFRIEND

FIRST AIRED 1/23/91 WRITERS David/

Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS

Jerry develops a

"psychosexual" need

for George's ex, Mar-

lene (Tracy Kolis).

Elaine gets into the

first of many paranoid

confrontations, this time

with a neighbor who has

stopped saying hello. HIS-

TORIC MOMENT Our first

glimpse of Jerry

in his car. (These

people regularly

drive in Manhat-

tan? They truly are

nuts.) Kramer inaugurates

two trademark obsessions:

fresh fruit and golf. CRITIQUE

The series' most multifac-

eted (if not most engaging)

narrative so far—a sign of

things to come. B

EPISODE 7

THE PONY REMARK

FIRST AIRED 1/30/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS At his

elderly cousin Manya's 50th-anniver-

sary party, Jerry makes a disparag-

ing remark about people who

had ponies as kids. When

Manya, a former pony own-

er, takes offense, then

proceeds to drop dead,

Jerry is racked with

guilt. INTRODUCES Barney

Martin as Jerry's father, as

well as the delightfully cantankerous

Uncle Leo (Len Lesser), avid fan of

cousin Jeffrey (someone whom,

along with much-mentioned Kramer

bud Bob Sacamano, we will never

see. Says Seinfeld: "They've become

too large in our imagination for any-

one to fill those shoes"). CRITIQUE Sein-

feld at its mordant best. A-

EPISODE 8

THE JACKET

FIRST AIRED 2/6/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Almost as

inexplicable as Jerry's shelling out

countless hundreds for a simple

suede jacket is the enveloping sense

of confidence it bestows upon him.

Both are imperiled by the arrival of

Elaine's irascible novelist father, Al-

ton Benes (Lawrence Tierney). HIS-

TORIC MOMENT Establishes Elaine's first

job (manuscript reader at Pendant

Publishing) but little else about her immediate family. A few things we will learn: She's from Towson, Md., has a sister in St. Louis, and an uncle who worked in the Dallas book depository with Lee Harvey Oswald. CRITIQUE Jerry and George's torturous hotel-lobby meeting with Mr. Benes is a squirm-inducing joy. B+

EPISODE 9

THE PHONE MESSAGE

FIRST AIRED 2/13/91 WRITERS David/Sein-

feld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A blown

invitation for "coffee" and an unre-

turned phone call from a could-be-

girlfriend prompt George's insecur-

ities to run amok. Jerry dates, then

is dumped by, a woman because

she's a fan of a Dockers commer-

cial (ironically, he gripes,

"They're talking about nothing!").

CRITIQUE The first of two consecutive

and classic George angst-fests, as

Jason Alexander—master of fran-

tic venom—begins to make the

character his own. B+

EPISODE 10

THE APARTMENT

FIRST AIRED 4/4/91 WRITER Peter Mehl-

man DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry of-

fers to hook Elaine up with a dirt-

cheap apartment in his building,

then immediately reconsiders.

George, believing women to be

more attracted to married men,

sports a wedding band. HISTORIC MO-

MENTS The premiere of Elaine's pa-

tented "Get out!" shove, and the

much-referred-to "pop-in" (unex-

pected visits—as in, Elaine will be

popping in all the time if she moves

upstairs). CRITIQUE George's profound

self-hatred is now in full bloom

("Please, a little respect, for I am

Costanza, Lord of the Idiots!").

Kramer's input, meanwhile, re-

mains limited to off-the-wall, often

annoying cameos. Which reminds

us: Why in the world has Alexander

been denied an Emmy, while

Richards has scored two? B+

EPISODE 11

THE STATUE

FIRST AIRED 4/11/91 WRITER Larry Charles

DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine's editing

of arrogant Finnish novelist Rava

(Nurit Koppel) leads Jerry to a

housekeeper: Rava's flakily high-

brow beau, Ray (Michael D. Con-

way). When a family memento (cov-

eted by George) disappears, Kramer

plays cop to get it back from Ray.

CRITIQUE Even Seinfeld's bit players

must have some grounding in real-

ity—you need to love to hate them.

Ultimately, there's no redeeming

comic payoff to Rava's and Ray's

weirdness. C-

EPISODE 12

THE REVENGE

FIRST AIRED 4/18/91 WRITER David DIR.

Cherones SYNOPSIS George quits his

job at Rick-Bar Properties when he

GEORGE ON ELAINE:

“She’s a pretty woman, kinda short, big wall of hair, face like a frying pan”

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT RISKO

is banned from the executive toilet, then reconsiders. When the boss won't rehire him, George enlists Elaine to "slip him a Mickey" at a company party. Jerry and Kramer pursue a vendetta of their own at the Laundromat. **INTRODUCES** Newman, sort of: He's heard but not seen as he threatens a suicidal leap—from the second floor. **CRITIQUE** Although neat for its parallel plotting and George's hilariously clueless career chats with Jerry, "Revenge" is not so sweet. **C**

EPISODE 13

THE HEART ATTACK

FIRST AIRED 4/25/91 **WRITER** Charles Dir. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** After watching a TV show on heart attacks, suggestible George believes he's having one; when a hospital visit proves it's just tonsillitis, miserly George opts for Kramer's holistic healer, Tor Akman (Stephen Tobolowsky), and finds you get what you pay for. **CRITIQUE** What *Seinfeld* excels at is finding the eccentric in the apparently normal. A kooky New Age doctor? That's hitting the broad side of a barn. **D**

EPISODE 14

THE DEAL

FIRST AIRED 5/2/91 **WRITER** David Dir. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Couch-bound and bored watching the "naked station," Jerry and Elaine decide to have sex—albeit with friendship-protecting ground rules. All is well until Elaine's birthday, when Jerry must come up with a gift appropriate to their now-nebulous connection. **CRITIQUE** Jerry and Elaine's circuitous verbal dance pondering the relative worth of "that [sex] versus this [the friendship]" is sublime. The show's ability to be both explicit and vague will become a hallmark. **B+**

EPISODE 15

THE BABY SHOWER

FIRST AIRED 5/16/91 **WRITER** Charles Dir. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** Two absurdly disparate events—a baby shower and an illegal cable-TV installation (engineered by Kramer)—converge in Jerry's apartment on a fateful Saturday. And George has a bone to pick with the prospective mommy, an egocentric performance artist who once humiliated him with chocolate syrup. **CRITIQUE** After a promising opening, this baby quickly degenerates into heavy-handed farce. **D**

EPISODE 16

THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

FIRST AIRED 5/23/91 **WRITERS** David/Seinfeld Dir. **Cherones SYNOPSIS** En route to a *Plan 9 From Outer Space* screening, Jerry, George, and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese restaurant. **CRITIQUE** The epitome of the show-about-nothing concept, George is at his pressure-cooker best, but it's Elaine—famished and in high dudgeon—who is the centerpiece. **A-**

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

JERRY AND THE GANG GET ON THE BRAND WAGON

IF NOT THE FIRST SHOW TO FLAUNT name brands, *Seinfeld* is certainly the most brazen in its use of products as comedy fodder. Indeed, four consumer items have driven plots as prominently as guest stars: Junior Mints, Drake's Coffee Cake, Pez, and Snickers. Others—like Snapple, Dannon yogurt, and 25 or so cereals—have made nonspeaking cameos. "There was no thought of, 'Oh, if we say Yoo-hoo, we'll get a case of Yoo-hoo.' We never did it in order to get things," claims former writer Larry Charles. "We should have said Rolex watches. We should have cashed in." (Like they need more money.)

So why do they do it? Realism. "It always bothered me when Archie Bunker reached for his can of beer and it was some non-brand," says Glenn Padnick, president of Castle Rock Television, the show's studio. "For a second it took you out of the show." *Seinfeld's* writers also prefer real products because, in comedy, specificity is funny. Here are answers to some other burning product questions: **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE REFERENCE IS NEGATIVE—AS WHEN JERRY DISSED LEVI'S DOCKERS PANTS ADS?**

"Virtually every [company with a] product that is mentioned on our show, even if it was semi-unflattering, has loved it," says Padnick. The show asks for permission to use a brand name only if Castle Rock's lawyers think the company may take offense. So far, the only one that's had a beef with a *Seinfeld* mention was Chef Boyardee, which balked at a script (episode 115) that had Kramer feeding Beefaroni to a horse—with odoriferous results. The name was changed to Beef-A-Reeno.

HAS AN ADVERTISER EVER GOTTEN MAD WHEN A COMPETITOR'S NAME

WAS MENTIONED? No, but NBC's standards and practices division polices the product mentions in an effort to avoid the appearance of gratuitous plugging—as it did with "The Contest," a.k.a. the masturbation episode. "We were expecting pages and pages [of notes]," says Padnick. "But literally the only comment from the censors was 'Please delete a few references to Snapple.'" Avoiding gratuitous plugging is also why so finicky a consumer as Jerry drinks Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi. "We're not looking to aid any [brand]," says Padnick. "Jerry

probably would have a favorite soft drink, but we just can't do that."

JERRY'S MOST OBVIOUS ACCESSORY—HIS SNEAKERS—ARE NEVER MENTIONED BY NAME. HOW COME? Since real-life Jerry, an avowed sneaker buff, gets free shoes from Nike, to point out the brand would constitute "product placement" (taking money or gifts in exchange for a product mention), and the show would then have to credit Nike after each episode. (Note, however, two rather blatant references to the athletic-wear company: Jerry sports a Nike sweatshirt in episodes 92 and 137.)

OKAY, SO WHAT'S THE

DEAL WITH ROLD GOLD PRETZELS?

Jason Alexander's Rold Gold TV ad spots first aired in September 1993—the same month he was seen eating the pretzels on the show (in episode 64). Isn't that a little fishy? "That was definitely a coincidence," says Monica Neufang, PR manager at Frito-Lay, parent company of Rold Gold. "As the number-one pretzel in the U.S., it's natural that if you're going to grab for a pretzel to be on the show, you're going to go with the leader." As Jerry might say, We don't think so. —Kristen Baldwin



GEORGE ON KRAMER:

“His whole life is a fantasy camp. People should plunk down \$2,000 to live like him for a week. Do nothing. Fall ass backwards into money. Mooch food off your neighbors. And have sex without dating.”

ILLUSTRATION BY ANITA KUNZ

EPISODE 17 THE BUSBOY

FIRST AIRED 6/26/91 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George inadvertently gets a busboy (David Labiosa) fired, then haplessly tries to make amends. Elaine reluctantly entertains a guest from Seattle (“He’s a wonderful guy, but I hate

his guts,” she says with characteristic irony). HISTORIC MOMENTS First reference to Kramer as the K-Man. We learn that George went to fat camp. CRITIQUE Aside from one physically inspired moment of Elaine mania, there’s nary a laugh in this loser. D

-SEASON THREE-

EPISODE 18 THE NOTE

FIRST AIRED 9/18/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Visits to massage therapists by Jerry, Elaine, and George lead to (1) Jerry being suspected of child abuse, (2) his dentist be-

ing investigated for insurance fraud, and (3) George questioning his heterosexuality (“I think it moved”). HISTORIC MOMENT We learn that shy-bladder George is a “stall man.” CRITIQUE Besides laughs galore, it’s the first truly democratic episode: Even Kramer finally gets a slam “dunk” of a subplot (Joe DiMaggio at Dinky Donuts). A-

EPISODE 19 THE TRUTH

FIRST AIRED 9/25/91 WRITER Elaine Pope DIR. David Steinberg SYNOPSIS “I’ve driven women to lesbianism before, but never to a mental institution,” says George, whose atypical, brutally honest breakup with flaky accountant Patrice (Valerie Mahaffey) provokes a meltdown that lands her in the “nervous” hospital. The real crisis, however, is that she’s got Jerry’s tax records and he’s being audited. CRITIQUE A killer George, but not much for anyone else besides Mahaffey, who has fun with her imploding New York City trendoid. B-

EPISODE 20 THE PEN

FIRST AIRED 10/2/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine accompanies Jerry to the Sunshine State, where his dad is being feted by the condo association. When Jerry accepts an “astronaut pen” (it writes upside down!) from neighbor Jack Klompus, it triggers a retirement-community scandal. Elaine, meanwhile, is hobbled by the Seinfelds’ pull-out couch. INTRODUCES Sandy Baron as crusty troublemaker Jack. CRITIQUE Oddly, George and Kramer are not missed in this stellar (Stellar!) outing. The only thing funnier than Elaine’s exquisite distress is Jerry’s absurd reassurances. When she’s dreading the three-day visit after one night, he rationalizes, “Subtract showers and meals—it’s like 20 minutes!” A+

EPISODE 21 THE DOG

FIRST AIRED 10/9/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS On a plane trip, Jerry’s drunken seatmate takes ill, saddling Jerry with custody of his mutt, Farfel. The unwanted guest makes him a prisoner in his own house. HISTORIC MOMENT We learn that Jerry gargles (very quietly) six times a day. CRITIQUE A contrived plot finds some redemption in “friends-in-law” George and Elaine, who, forced to bond without Jerry, discover he’s all they have in common. C+

EPISODE 22 THE LIBRARY

FIRST AIRED 10/16/91 WRITER Charles DIR. Joshua White SYNOPSIS Jerry is slapped with a 20-year overdue notice for *Tropic of Cancer*.

The ensuing investigation sparks a traumatic “memory burn” for George: His sadistic high school gym teacher, Mr. Heyman (Biff Yeager)—he of the “little baked bean” teeth and atomic wedgies—is now a vagrant who calls the library steps home. CRITIQUE A sure candidate for the pantheon, thanks in large part to Philip Baker Hall’s hard-boiled library gumshoe, Lt. Bookman (!), and his rapid-fire, *Dragnet*-esque exchanges with Jerry. Also legendary: Heyman’s malapropism for George’s surname: “Can’tstandya.” A+

EPISODE 23 THE PARKING GARAGE

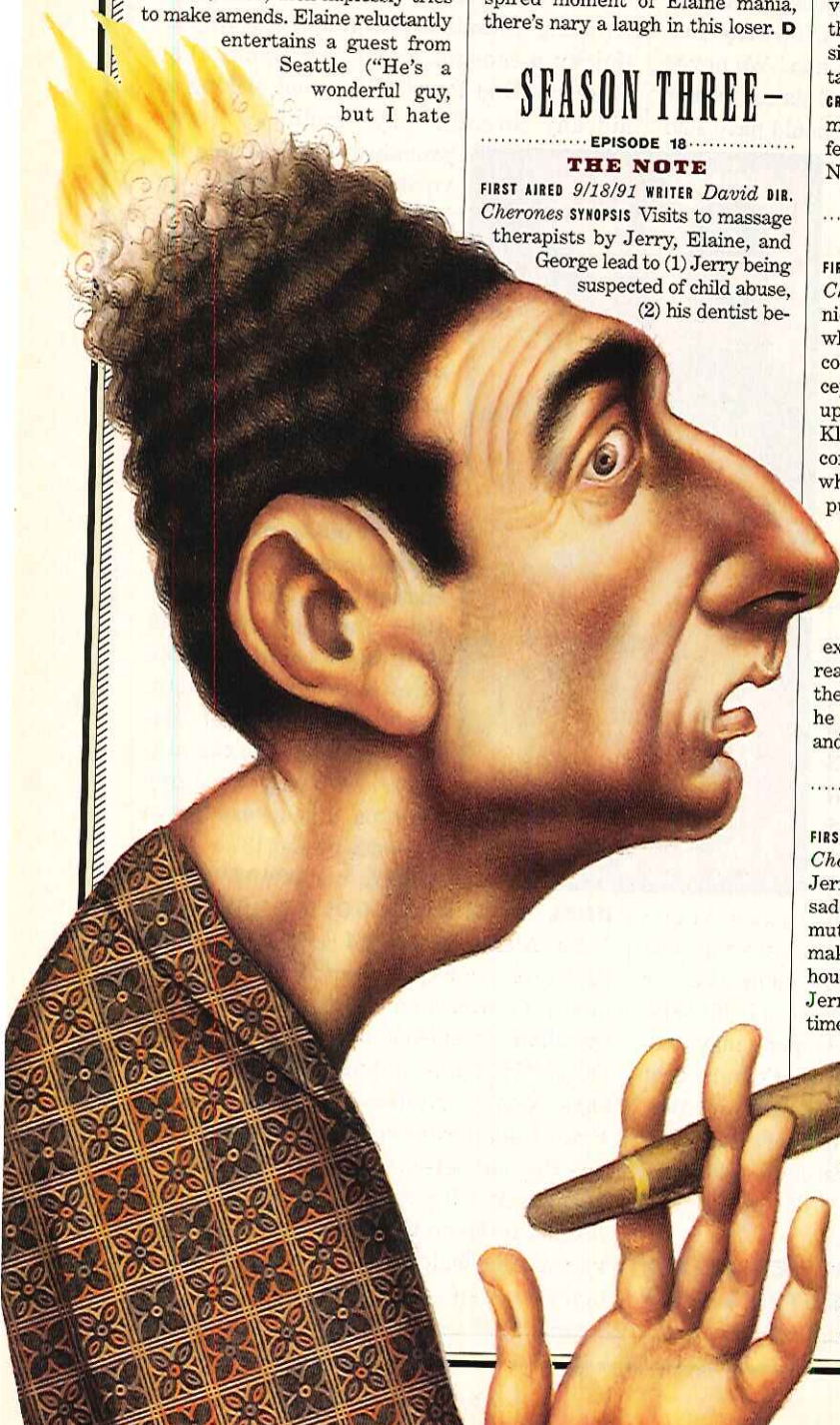
FIRST AIRED 10/30/91 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Scenes from a mall, as the foursome search for Kramer’s car in a parking garage while schlepping the world’s cheapest air conditioner. HISTORIC MOMENT Jerry and George are apprehended while relieving themselves against a wall. CRITIQUE In a companion piece to “Chinese Restaurant,” the friends find themselves trapped “like rats in some experiment,” allowing for plenty of what they do best: pseudo-existential rambling. That said, the (admittedly intentional) claustrophobia is ultimately exasperating. B-

EPISODE 24 THE CAFE

FIRST AIRED 11/6/91 WRITER Tom Leopold DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry decides to help struggling restaurateur Babu Bhatt drum up business. Elaine assists George in an IQ-test caper. INTRODUCES Brian George as the too-trusting (at first) Babu, who will receive more “help” from Jerry down the line. HISTORIC MOMENT Debut of the never-used bicycle, which hangs next to Jerry’s bathroom. CRITIQUE Great unsettling fun to watch Babu sour on self-satisfied Jerry (“You bad man, Jerry. You very, very bad man!”). One gripe: Kramer’s tiresome side plot—involving a lucky jacket he’s determined to keep from its rightful owner—begins here and drags on for weeks. B

EPISODE 25 THE TAPE

FIRST AIRED 11/13/91 WRITERS David/Bob Shaw/Don McEnery DIR. Steinberg SYNOPSIS While attending one of Jerry’s stand-up gigs, Elaine anonymously talks dirty into his tape recorder; after learning that it’s her, George (and eventually the others) see Ms. Benes in a whole new light. At the same time, George experiments with an exotic Chinese balding cure. INTRODUCES Ping Wu as delivery guy Ping, Elaine’s future nemesis. CRITIQUE Almost a tacit reminder to us—and a masterfully besotted George—that the usually sexless Elaine really isn’t just one of the boys. B-



EPISODE 26

THE NOSE JOB

FIRST AIRED 11/20/91 WRITER *Mehlman* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS A guilt-ridden George considers breaking up with Audrey (Susan Diol) because she has a big nose. Jerry deals with superficiality issues of his own in his fling with a bimbo "actress" (Tawny Kitaen). HISTORIC MOMENTS The Kitaen elevator encounter provides Jerry's best come-on: "You know, I'm the one responsible for those crop circles in England." We learn Kramer's mom is named Babs, and she's "a drunken stumblebum." CRITIQUE A wonderfully surreal set piece—in which Jerry's penis and brain battle for supremacy via a chess game—elevates this to just okay. **C**

EPISODE 27

THE STRANDED

FIRST AIRED 11/27/91 WRITERS *David Seinfeld/Matt Goldman* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS George drags Jerry and Elaine to a party in the suburbs (hosted by *The Commish*'s Michael Chiklis), then leaves them hanging when a smitten coworker offers sex. HISTORIC MOMENT Elaine's heated anti-fur rantings point out her character's scattershot sociopolitical consciousness, which seems to be more about getting in people's faces than explaining a heartfelt belief. CRITIQUE Perfectly captures the agony of attending a party where everyone is breathtakingly boring (Elaine's reply to one inane guest—"Maybe the dingo ate your baby"—is a nonsensical beaut). Too bad the entire half hour didn't gorge on that feast of comic possibilities, to the exclusion of the lesser George (shoplifting) and Chiklis (soliciting) subplots. **B-**

EPISODE 28

THE ALTERNATE SIDE

FIRST AIRED 12/4/91 WRITERS *David/Bill Masters* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Jerry's car is stolen. George takes over for vacationing Sid (Jay Brooks), the car parker on Jerry's block, and wreaks havoc on traffic. Elaine's "vibrant" 66-year-old boyfriend Owen (Edward Penn) strokes out minutes before she can break up with him. Kramer gets one line in a Woody Allen movie ("These pretzels are making me thirsty"). CRITIQUE Jerry is uncharacteristically confrontational in this busy plot, with sidesplitting results. Note especially his wiseass "reservation" wrangling at the car-rental counter. **B**

EPISODE 29

THE RED DOT

FIRST AIRED 12/11/91 WRITER *David* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Elaine's recovering alcoholic beau (David Naughton), a damaged cashmere sweater, a brief job at Pendant Publishing for George, and desktop sex with a

cleaning woman keep this holiday episode crackling. INTRODUCES Richard Fancy as Mr. Lippman, Elaine's boss at Pendant (played by Harris Shore in episode 22). CRITIQUE Literally laugh-a-minute (right down to Kramer's ersatz Hennigans commercial). Also nicely illustrative of the lying, cheating, and backstabbing that are part and parcel of these friendships. **A-**

EPISODE 30

THE SUBWAY

FIRST AIRED 1/8/92 WRITER *Charles* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS The plot top to proceed on four different tracks, literally, as Jerry (retrieving his recovered car), Elaine (on her way to a lesbian wedding), George (en route to a job interview), and Kramer (bound for driving-violations court) have disparate subway experiences. HISTORIC MOMENT Jerry first refers to George as *Death of a Salesman*'s Biff—"the biggest loser in the history of American literature." CRITIQUE Elaine's stalled-train freak-out is a lonely highlight. Lest anyone doubt this is an ensemble at work, witness the loss of comic sizzle when the foursome separate. **C+**

EPISODE 31

THE PEZ DISPENSER

FIRST AIRED 1/15/92 WRITER *David* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS In order to obtain "hand" (as in the upper hand) in his relationship with a humorless concert pianist, George plans a "preemptive breakup." Jerry reluctantly participates in a friend's drug intervention. Kramer dreams up a cologne that smells like the beach. CRITIQUE Featuring three of the series' most resonant comic legacies—The Beach, "hand," and the almighty Pez—as well as one of its most infectiously silly scenes (Jerry's Pez tease at the recital and Elaine's resulting hysteria). A non-stop hoot. **A**

EPISODE 32

THE SUICIDE

FIRST AIRED 1/29/92 WRITER *Leopold* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Bizarrely, another episode guest-starring a product (Drake's Coffee Cake): Jerry's neighbor Martin (C.E. Grimes) attempts suicide, leaving him in a coma and opening the door for Jerry to date his exotic girlfriend, Gina (Gina Gallego). Butt-phobic Elaine offends a chain-smoking, pregnant psychic just as she is about to reveal George's destiny. INTRODUCES Wayne Knight as misanthropic Kramer cohort Newman. We're never told the origin of Jerry and Newman's mutual hatred; Seinfeld sees it as simply a dramatic given (and draws a familiar parallel): "Superman had his Lex Luthor. He's mine." CRITIQUE For once, it's Jerry center stage, in his riotous rapport with Gina, his

KRAMER'S BIG IDEAS

ODDLY ENOUGH, THE LEAST GAINFULLY employed of the four friends is the one brimming with entrepreneurial brainstorm, some of which actually came to fruition—on the show, that is.



- A pizza place where you can make your own pie, to be owned and operated by Kramerica Industries (EPISODE 4)
- A roll-out tie dispenser (EPISODE 5)
- Levels—a design concept that will transform Kramer's pad into a pillow-strewn "ancient Egypt"; later used as a scene in the NBC pilot *Jerry* (EPISODE 7)
- The Beach, a cologne that smells like, well, you know; later co-opted by "the real" Calvin Klein as Ocean (EPISODES 31, 51)
- Faking a ski lodge in his apartment with ersatz wood wallpaper (EPISODE 58)



SUPPORT GROUP

MR. COSTANZA AND KRAMER
TEST THE BRO/MANSSIERE

- A coffee-table book about coffee tables—with a built-in coaster on the cover (EPISODE 71)
- Dispensing with his fridge and eating only fresh food (EPISODE 89)
- A camaraderie-promoting wall of tenants' photos in the building lobby (EPISODE 97)
- The Bro—bras for chesty men (EPISODE 98)
- Turning his apartment into a Swedish spa via a hot tub (EPISODE 109)
- Da Vinci sleep—20 minutes every three hours, based on Leonardo's supposed patterns (EPISODE 121)
- PB&J's, a restaurant that serves only peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches (EPISODE 121)
- Wearing only hot-out-of-the-dryer, or pizza oven, clothes (EPISODE 123)
- A car equipped with a periscope for urban navigation (EPISODE 126)
- A mattress filled with sand—"like sleeping on a beach" (EPISODE 144)

EPISODE 34

THE BOYFRIEND

FIRST AIRED 2/12/92 WRITERS *David/Larry Levin* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS In the series' first hour-long edition, a chance locker-room meeting pulls Jerry into a friendship-cum-romance with New York Met Keith Hernandez (playing himself); when Elaine starts dating him, Jerry's not sure whom he's jealous of. Kramer and Newman have their own connection to the Game 6 legend—a fateful 1987 "assassination" incident outside Shea Stadium. Meanwhile, George "the chucker" is in full fraudulent swing as he tries to extend his unemployment benefits. INTRODUCES Former Jerry neighbors and new parents Michael (here played by Stephen Prutting, later by Mark L. Taylor) and Carol (Lisa Mende), they of the "You gotta see the bay-bee" whine. HISTORIC MOMENT First real "Hello, Newman." CRITIQUE A quintessential watercooler episode—parti-

seething rancor toward Newman, and his blithe lack of pity for Martin. **B**

EPISODE 33

THE FIX-UP

FIRST AIRED 2/5/92 WRITERS *Popel/Charles* DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Neurotic, bulimic Cynthia (*Friends*' Maggie Wheeler) tells Elaine she's looking to meet a guy who "has nothing. Somebody who just has to appreciate being with me because he's so desperate." Naturally, matchmakers Elaine and Jerry think of George, who promptly—and proudly—saddles Cynthia with a pregnancy scare ("My boys can swim!"). HISTORIC MOMENT First mention of "the vault," the impenetrable mental chamber where secrets are kept. CRITIQUE A relentless, snarky banter-fest, aided and abetted by Wheeler, who could easily be a regular, she's such a great fit among these misfits. **A-**

cularly in its subversive, spot-on parody of Oliver Stone's *JFK*, replete with "gravelly road" and "magic loogie." Generally, hour-long episodes are sitcom killers, even for this show. Meet the exception. **A+**

..... **EPISODE 35**
THE LIMO
 FIRST AIRED 2/26/92 WRITERS Charles/Marc Jaffe DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS An airport scam goes horribly wrong, as George (with Jerry) impersonates a Mr. O'Brien to appropriate his limo.

Turns out he's the leader of a neo-Nazi group, and the car is en route to a rally. **CRITIQUE** Despite an auspicious start, this was too much about something—and something unconvincingly preposterous at that. **B-**

..... **EPISODE 36**
THE GOOD SAMARITAN
 FIRST AIRED 3/4/92 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Jason Alexander SYNOPSIS An outraged Jerry chases down a hit-and-run driver, only to end up dating her. George has an affair with a married woman. Kramer experiences seizures triggered by the voice of *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart. (Don't we all?) **CRITIQUE** Lackluster doings all around. Now we know why Alexander never directed again. **C**

..... **EPISODE 37**
THE LETTER
 FIRST AIRED 3/25/92 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry dates

jealous, Neil Simon-plagiarizing painter Nina (Catherine Keener), whose father is an accountant for the Yankees; Elaine causes a brouhaha when she wears an Orioles cap in the owner's box. The art world gets a load of Kramer. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** We learn Kramer hopped a steamship to Sweden when he was 17 and Jerry wears button-fly jeans: "That's one place in my wardrobe I do not need sharp interlocking teeth. It's like a mink trap down there." **CRITIQUE** A boring girlfriend for Jerry—and four ho-hum subplots centering on her—make for tedium. **C-**

..... **EPISODE 38**
THE PARKING SPACE
 FIRST AIRED 4/22/92 WRITERS David/Greg Daniels DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A plan to get together at Jerry's to watch a prize fight is stymied when George and another presumptive guest, Mike (Lee Arenberg), wind up in a parking-space standoff in front of the building. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Highlights one of George's few bragging points: his prowess behind the wheel, specifically here as a primo parallel parker. **CRITIQUE** Another me-

diocre outing, winding up a comically challenged couple of weeks. This one sets up its scenario and just kinda lies there. **C**

..... **EPISODE 39**
THE KEYS
 FIRST AIRED 5/6/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS By abusing his visitation rights, Kramer breaks the "covenant of the keys," forcing Jerry to demand his set back. Kramer takes this reprimand as a cue to pursue his destiny (an acting career) and embarks on a madcap cross-country trek that results in a guest spot on *Murphy Brown*. **CRITIQUE** At long last, the K-Man gets a close-up in this cliff-hanger of sorts, including an especially flavorful (and all too rare) tête-à-tête with George. **B+**

-SEASON FOUR-

..... **EPISODE 40**
THE TRIP, PART I
 FIRST AIRED 8/12/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry (with George in tow) heads for L.A. and a *Tonight Show* appearance. Kramer, still pursuing his Hollywood dream, ends up the prime suspect in a series of "smog stranglings." **CRITIQUE** Kramer's *Sunset Boulevard* moment with a has-been starlet, and know-it-all George's starstruck backstage assault on *Cheers* star George Wendt ("Have they thought about changing the setting? People do meet in places besides a bar"), are the bright spots in an underwhelming season opener. **B-**

..... **EPISODE 41**
THE TRIP, PART II
 FIRST AIRED 8/19/92 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and George try to reach Kramer and clear his name after he's falsely arrested. **CRITIQUE** The duo are a scream as strangers in a strange land (L.A.). They also engage in a particularly riotous display of juvenility in the back of a police car (nice cameo by professional psycho Clint Howard, too). **B+**

..... **EPISODE 42**
THE PITCH/THE TICKET (ONE HOUR)
 FIRST AIRED 9/16/92 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and George pitch their sitcom about "nothing" to NBC. Elaine embarks on a whirlwind tour of Europe with her >>



GEORGE ON GEORGE:

“I come from a long line of quitters. My father was a quitter. My grandfather was a quitter. I was raised to give up.”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ULRIKSEN

COUNTER CULTURE



TELEVISION'S LANDSCAPE is filled with actors whose careers got a boost from a bit part on *Seinfeld*, whether in blink-and-you'll-miss-'em appearances, like Kathy Kinney's and French Stewart's, or in more pivotal roles, like Lisa Edelstein's Risotto Girl. Here's a peek at some of the stars who have dropped in:

- A. Jane Leeves,**
Frasier
(Episode 48)
- B. Jami Gertz,**
ER (78)
- C. Dan Cortese,**
The Single Guy
(73)
- D. Courteney Cox,**
Friends (78)
- E. French Stewart,**
3rd Rock From the Sun (82)
- F. Michelle Forbes,**
Homicide: Life on the Street (84)
- G. Vicki Lewis,**
NewsRadio (91)
- H. Kathy Griffin,**
Suddenly Susan
(120)
- I. Stephen Root,**
NewsRadio (126)
- J. Wendie Malick,**
Just Shoot Me (97)
- K. Jon Favreau,**
Friends,
Swingers (80)
- L. Teri Hatcher,**
Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman (57)
- M. Kathy Kinney,**
The Drew Carey Show (60)
- N. David James Elliott,**
JAG (87)
- O. Jeremy Piven,**
Ellen (61)
- P. Lisa Edelstein,**
Relativity (62)
- Q. Christa Miller,**
The Drew Carey Show (65, 100)
- R. Dedee Pfeiffer,**
Cybill (82)
- S. Armin Shimerman,**
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (116)
- T. Brad Garrett,**
Everybody Loves Raymond (124)

A: H. MILLER/ZUMA; B: JONATHAN ALCON/ZUMA; C: LISA O'CONNOR/SHOOTING STAR; D: YONHAI KAHANA/SHOOTING STAR; E: S. O. P. T. LISA ROSE/LORE PHOTOS; F: O. RON DAVIS/SHOOTING STAR; G: H. STEVE GRANITZ/REXNA; I: Q. M. FITZROY BARRETT/LORE PHOTOS; J: SUNNY BARK/SHOOTING STAR; K: BILL DAVIES/REXNA; L: DAVEY BOAR/REXNA; M: HUNTY BRUNER/CBS; N: PARMOUNT/SHOOTING STAR; O: H. MILLER/ZUMA; P: JONATHAN ALCON/ZUMA; Q: LISA O'CONNOR/SHOOTING STAR; R: YONHAI KAHANA/SHOOTING STAR; S: BILL DAVIES/REXNA; T: DAVEY BOAR/REXNA; U: HUNTY BRUNER/CBS; V: PARMOUNT/SHOOTING STAR; W: H. MILLER/ZUMA; X: JONATHAN ALCON/ZUMA; Y: LISA O'CONNOR/SHOOTING STAR; Z: YONHAI KAHANA/SHOOTING STAR.

therapist, Dr. Reston, whose other patient, Crazy Joe Davola, is stalking Kramer and Jerry over a party-invitation slight. **INTRODUCES** Heidi Swedberg as NBC exec Susan Ross, George's future fiancée; Bob Balaban as NBC prez Russell Dalrymple; Stephen McHattie as creepy Reston; and Peter Crombie as Crazy Joe. **CRITIQUE** David and Seinfeld's roman à clef about their own NBC experience includes killer pitch scenes. Too bad they had to muck it up with Kramer and Newman's inane courtroom antics. **B-**

EPISODE 43 THE WALLET

FIRST AIRED 9/23/92 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** The defective watch Jerry tossed in the garbage in "The Pitch" (later retrieved, in one of those aptly improbable turns of fate, by Uncle Leo) is an issue when his parents wonder about their gift. Mr. Seinfeld's wallet is swiped at the doctor's. Elaine breaks up with her "Sven-jolly," Dr. Reston. **CRITIQUE** In a show magnifying neuroses to fever pitch, Jerry's respectful rapport with his exasperating family is the closest thing to normalcy *Seinfeld* offers. **B-**

JERRY ON NEWMAN:

“He's pure evil...a mystery wrapped in a Twinkie”

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK FREDRICKSON

EPISODE 44 THE WATCH

FIRST AIRED 9/30/92 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** George plays hardball with NBC and succeeds in dropping the price for his and Jerry's script. Elaine deals with Reston via Kramer, then gives her number to a smitten Crazy Joe. Jerry regrets asking out Naomi (Jessica Lundy), a restaurant hostess with a braying laugh ("Elmer Fudd sittin' on a juicer"). **CRITIQUE** None of the subplots really cohere, but worth it for George's hyperirritating visit with Dalrymple and Kramer's inept sparring with Reston. In fact, Richards scored his first Emmy win with this and "The Junior Mint." **B**

EPISODE 45 THE BUBBLE BOY

FIRST AIRED 10/7/92 **WRITERS** David/Charles **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Susan invites George, Jerry, and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-hoo salesman (Brian Doyle-Murray) guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless, stogie-puffing Kramer has burned down the cabin. **CRITIQUE** Not only do they use a sick kid as a comic device, they make him into an obnoxious creep; his life-threatening Trivial Pursuit game with George ("Moors!" "Moops!") is a dyspeptic gem. **A+**

EPISODE 46 THE CHEEVER LETTERS

FIRST AIRED 10/28/92 **WRITER** David/Pope/Leopold **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** George and Susan give her father

the bad news about the cabin—and spill the beans about a recovered box containing love letters from his secret paramour, author John Cheever. While bedding Elaine's secretary, Jerry offends her with off-the-wall pillow talk ("The panties your mother laid out for you?"). **INTRODUCES** Grace Zabriskie and Warren Frost as Susan Ross' blue-blood alcoholic mom and dour dad—*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on the Upper East Side. **CRITIQUE** Discomfiting as all get-out, this also includes an all-too-realistic depiction of writer procrastination as Jerry and George struggle to crank out the pilot. **A-**

EPISODE 47 THE OPERA

FIRST AIRED 11/4/92 **WRITER** Charles **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Picking up where "The Watch" left off, Elaine dumps Crazy Joe when she discovers he's transformed his apartment into a demented shrine to her. The unmedicated nut then stalks her and Jerry at a performance of *I Pagliacci*. (Says Jerry: "I kind of like this opera crowd. I feel tough.") **CRITIQUE** Another gleefully sociopathic Davola appearance puts this one nicely over the top—just like a good opera. **B+**

EPISODE 48 THE VIRGIN

FIRST AIRED 11/11/92 **WRITERS** Mehlman/Peter Farrelly/Bob Farrelly **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry dates a closet-organizing virgin, Marla (*Frasier*'s Jane Leeves). Assuming a sitcom gig will make him more desirable, George looks for a way to dump Susan—and succeeds. Ping sues Elaine for a jaywalking mishap. **CRITIQUE** At least three terrific scenes—George and Jerry's "What's a girlfriend?" chat, Elaine's diaphragm remarks, and George getting henpecked by phone while Kramer plays *Jeopardy!*—make this Mehlman and Farrelly brothers (*Dumb and Dumber*) effort a hall of famer. **A**

EPISODE 49 THE CONTEST

FIRST AIRED 11/18/92 **WRITER** David **DIR.** Cherones **SYNOPSIS** George's mother catches him, *you know*, with a copy of *Glamour* magazine, prompting a contest to see who can remain "master of their domain." **INTRODUCES** Estelle Harris as Estelle Costanza, explaining a whole lot about the mess that is her son. **CRITIQUE** Clearly on a roll, the show hit a new high with this masterful tribute to sublimation. Since no money changes hands between George and Jerry, we wondered who, in fact, won. Larry David claims, "We resolved it [in "The Puffy Shirt" (63)]," where George boasts about prevailing. *Seinfeld*, however, maintains that not only was it a tie, "it's still going on. Maybe in the last episode we'll have to talk about 'Well, do you give?'" **A+**





The Costanzas

EPISODE 50 THE AIRPORT

FIRST AIRED 11/25/92 WRITER Charles Dir. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Jerry and Elaine are separated on a packed flight to La Guardia airport: Jerry ends up in first class, next to model Tia Van Camp (Jennifer Campbell); Elaine gets stuck in coach. George and Kramer attempt to pick them up at the airport. Ha! CRITIQUE Elaine's acute distress—intercut with Jerry's wine-sipping, slipper-wearing, sundae-eating idyll—is a joy to behold. Who doesn't relate to this class struggle every time they board a plane? **A+**

EPISODE 51 THE PICK

FIRST AIRED 12/16/92 WRITERS David/Marc Jaffe DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Nose picking and nipple baring are Jerry and Elaine's scarlet letters in an episode that also finds Kramer confronting designer Calvin Klein (Nicholas Hormann) over aromatic plagiarism and George getting Susan back—to his dismay. CRITIQUE Kramer as CK underwear model and George's Louis Pasteur digression are prime examples of Richards' and Alexander's comedic genius: zany physicality and desperate deception. But as with all of the best episodes, everyone rocks. One complaint: a woefully unexploited therapy visit for basket case George. **A**

THE PARENTS

ILLUSTRATION BY BARRY BLITT

EPISODE 52 THE MOVIE

FIRST AIRED 1/6/93 WRITERS Steve Skrovan/Bill Masters/Jon Hayman DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer try to go to a movie together. CRITIQUE Yet another attempt to recapture the high anxiety of "Chinese Restaurant," but there's a fine line between transcendent and tiresome. Guess which side this one falls on? **D**

EPISODE 53 THE VISA

FIRST AIRED 1/27/93 WRITER Mehlman DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS When George's relationship with a lawyer—Cheryl "The Terminator" Fong (Maggie Han)—goes kablooey, so do Babu's chances for remaining in the U.S. and Elaine's opportunity to avoid a costly judgment from Ping. Kramer goes to baseball fantasy camp. CRITIQUE Nothing's funnier than Jerry trying *not* to be funny in this festival of ethnic ire—except, maybe, George fraudulently ingratiating himself with yet another woman. **A-**

EPISODE 54 THE SHOES

FIRST AIRED 2/4/93 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS When

George imperils the NBC pilot with an inappropriate stare, it's Elaine—and her cleavage—to the rescue. HISTORIC MOMENTS Jerry's Superman magnet joins his fridge—coincidentally, or not, this also marks the beginning of the show's residence in the top 10. CRITIQUE An off episode for Elaine, who gets stuck with a lame shoe subplot. Actually, this rare David/Seinfeld foul pretty much stinks for everyone. **D**

EPISODE 55 THE OUTING

FIRST AIRED 2/11/93 WRITER Charles Dir. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS A joke perpetrated by Elaine leads a New York University student reporter (Paula Marshall) to assume that (single, thin, neat) Jerry and George are gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that. HISTORIC MOMENT We learn that George met Jerry at JFK High School, when George fell off a rope in gym class and landed on Jerry's head. CRITIQUE Except for another annoying jacket routine (this time Elaine refuses to take her parka off for no apparent reason), "Outing" strikes the perfect Seinfeldian balance: far-fetched and accessible. Then again, Jerry dating a college kid? Get out! **A-**

The Seinfelds

EPISODE 56 THE OLD MAN

FIRST AIRED 2/18/93 WRITERS Charles/Bruce Kirschbaum DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Following Elaine's selfless example, Jerry and George sign with the Senior Citizens Volunteer Agency to fill the "deep yawning chasm" of their lives. Elaine's charge is a goiter-sporting former lover of Gandhi (voiced by Edie McClurg); George and Jerry end up with geriatric versions of each other (Robert Donley and Emmy-nominated Bill Erwin). CRITIQUE The perils of altruism yield big yuks once again—not to mention Jerry and George confronting the dual spectres of aging and (gasp!) maturity. **B+**

EPISODE 57 THE IMPLANT

FIRST AIRED 2/25/93 WRITER Mehlman DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Much mammarian speculation surrounds Jerry's current object of desire, Sidra (Lois & Clark's Teri Hatcher). George tries to use a funeral to make headway with new girlfriend Betsy (Megan Mullally). Kramer insists he's seen Salman Rushdie at the gym. CRITIQUE Numerous guffaw-worthy scenes (George's mimed reaction to Betsy's emergency phone call and his "double dip" fracas being two), yet the whole falls just short of its parts. **B**

EPISODE 58 THE JUNIOR MINT

FIRST AIRED 3/18/93 WRITER Andy Robin DIR. *Cherones* SYNOPSIS Jerry dates a woman (Susan Walters) whose name rhymes with a female body part—if only he knew which one. Elaine rekindles her affections for an ex, Roy/Triangle Boy (Sherman Howard), as he's about to undergo a splenectomy, which Jerry and Kramer get to observe. HISTORIC MOMENT Seinfeld has remarked that his ad-lib—"Let's go watch 'em slice this fat bastard up"—opened the door for

Hair By Tracker.



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all manner of verbal envelope pushing. **CRITIQUE** The combined snarkiness of two trademark motifs (the provocation—via the name guessing—of dirty thoughts; and George's hopes of profiting from death) adds up to a minor masterpiece. **B+**

EPISODE 59

THE SMELLY CAR

FIRST AIRED 4/15/93 WRITERS David/Mehlman DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry wages an epic struggle against "The Beast," after a parking valet infests his car with otherworldly BO. George worries he's put Susan off men after seeing her holding hands with Mona (Viveka Davis), a golf instructor who, in turn, falls for Kramer. **CRITIQUE** George as despairing sexual leper ("Amazing. I drive them to lesbianism. [Kramer] brings 'em back!") is, of course, a treat. But Jerry's initially funny predicament runs out of gas, as it were. **B-**

EPISODE 60

THE HANDICAP SPOT

FIRST AIRED 5/13/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The ethically challenged meet the physically challenged as the foursome appropriate a handicap spot at a suburban mall en route to an engagement party for The Drake (Rick Overton). INTRODUCES John Randolph as Frank Costanza (his scenes were later reshot for syndication by his successor, Jerry Stiller—a television rarity). **CRITIQUE** While there are always moments of misanthropic self-centeredness, "Spot" is a veritable celebration of it—and good callous fun at that! **B**

EPISODE 61

THE PILOT (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 5/20/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Revolving around the casting (most notably, Ellen's Jeremy Piven as "George"), taping, and airing of the NBC pilot are Dalrymple's obsession with an uninterested Elaine, Kramer's constipation, and George's cancer scare. **CRITIQUE** What a missed opportunity! The show-within-a-show goings-on offered all sorts of riotous, hour-filling possibilities. Instead, Kramer and Elaine are thrown subplot bones, making what should have been a watershed event feel padded and slack. **B-**

-SEASON FIVE-

EPISODE 62

THE MANGO

FIRST AIRED 9/16/93 WRITERS Lawrence H. Levy/Buck Dancer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George gets "the tap" from his latest squeeze, Karen, a.k.a. Risotto Girl (*Relativity's* Lisa Edelstein), undermining his sexual confidence. Jerry learns that Elaine "faked 'em all" and begs for another shot. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry and Elaine

in bed. **CRITIQUE** Much cloaked yet explicit sexual discussion (à la "The Contest"), as well as an extended food-as-sex metaphor, opens the fifth season with a bang. **A**

EPISODE 63

THE PUFFY SHIRT

FIRST AIRED 9/23/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George, reduced to living with his parents, embarks on a hand-modeling career. Kramer's barely audible designer girlfriend, Leslie, has Jerry unwittingly agree to wear a pirate shirt on the *Today* show. INTRODUCES Jerry Stiller as retired religious-icon importer Frank Costanza. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Estelle Costanza has never laughed. **CRITIQUE** A great first taste of the Costanzas' corrosive rapport. And it's always fun to see Jerry—usually above it all—as the mortified victim. **A-**

EPISODE 64

THE GLASSES

FIRST AIRED 9/30/93 WRITERS Tom Gam-mill/Max Pross DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The loss of George's glasses results in Elaine being bitten by a dog and Jerry believing his girlfriend Amy (Anna Gun) is cheating on him. **CRITIQUE** Aside from Elaine's rabies hysteria, pretty standard fare. **B-**

EPISODE 65

THE SNIFFING ACCOUNTANT

FIRST AIRED 10/7/93 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry suspects his accountant, Barry Profit (John Kapelos), has a drug habit. Elaine breaks up with a writer over exclamation-point stinginess. George nails a bra-salesman job and immediately loses it after "feeling up" the boss (*Drew Carey's* Christa Miller). **HISTORIC MOMENT** A second Richards Emmy thanks to this and "The Opposite" (82). **CRITIQUE** The funniest thing here is the sight of Kramer smoking while drinking a beer. That's a problem. **C+**



MAN OVERBOARD

JERRY IN THE INFAMOUS PIRATE SHIRT

EPISODE 66

THE BRIS

FIRST AIRED 10/14/93 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry and Elaine are chosen as godparents and must participate at the bris. Kramer discovers a "pig man" at the hospital. A suicide jumper uses George's perfectly parked car as a landing pad. **CRITIQUE** An already lukewarm plot goes ice-cold (or, should we say, comes up short) with the appearance of a high-strung, scenery-chewing mohel (Charles Levin). **Feh. D-**

EPISODE 67

THE LIP READER

FIRST AIRED 10/28/93 WRITER Carol Leifer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Elaine pretends she's hard of hearing to avoid talking to an annoying limo driver (Christopher Darga). Meanwhile, Jerry falls for a truly deaf U.S. Open lineswoman (Marlee Matlin), whom George is soon "borrowing" to eavesdrop (lip-read) on an ex. **CRITIQUE** Not a laugh riot, for sure, but you gotta love a series that isn't afraid to exploit people's handicaps to serve its own comic purposes. **B-**

EPISODE 68

THE NON-FAT YOGURT

FIRST AIRED 11/4/93 WRITER David DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS A New York mayoral race between David Dinkins and Rudy Giuliani (in a cameo) is swayed by Jerry's belief in a non-fat-yogurt conspiracy and Elaine's contention that New Yorkers should wear name tags. INTRODUCES Peter Keleghan as Lloyd Braun, a Dinkins aide, who will be played by Matt McCoy in episode 114. **HISTORIC MOMENT** The F- and the S-word are thrown around, albeit with bleeps, in what may be a TV first. **CRITIQUE** Obviously a winner with Gothamites, although we wonder how this nearly provincial scenario played outside NYC. **B+**

EPISODE 69

THE BARBER

FIRST AIRED 11/11/93 WRITER Robin DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry's attempt to change haircutters is portrayed as an adulterous betrayal. An ambiguous job interview leads George to assume a position he's totally unqualified for. **CRITIQUE** Intended as a mock opera (Jerry's barber crisis, at any rate), this one had us looking for the exits. **Oofah! D**

EPISODE 70

THE MASSEUSE

FIRST AIRED 11/18/93 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Frustration for Jerry, because his masseuse girlfriend (Jennifer Coolidge) isn't giving him any (rubdowns, that is); for George, because the "massage teaser" can't stand him; and for Elaine, because her boyfriend Joel Rifkin (Anthony Cistaro) shares his name with a serial killer. **HISTORIC MOMENT** In considering a new name for Joel,



TOTAL RECALL

ONE OF THE BIG REASONS we buy into the eccentric and unpredictable world of *Seinfeld* is because it is so grounded in daily minutiae and recurring obsessions. You want nit-picking? Here's 148 episodes' worth of the most repeated events and references (you're welcome).

Kramer entrances	252
(BOTH FEET MUST BE OVER JERRY'S DOORSTEP)	
Meetings at Monk's Cafe	229
Opening of Jerry's fridge	103
Jerry on his phone	101
Rings of Jerry's buzzer	55
Jerry, Kramer, George, or Elaine watching the tube	40
Bowls of cereal eaten	13
Jerry, Kramer, or George driving a car*	95
(IRONICALLY, THERE ARE ONLY EIGHT SUBWAY RIDES AND ONE SCENE ON A BUS.)	
Scenes in a doctor's office/In a hospital	28
Scenes at an airport/In a plane	18
Cigars smoked by Kramer	19
Baseball references	48
Superhero references	32
(INCLUDING SUPERMAN, BATMAN, THE GREEN LANTERN, ELASTIC MAN, WONDER WOMAN, AQUAMAN, AND RUBBER MAN.)	
Chinese food references	26
Kennedy references	10
(INCLUDING JOHN F.'S JR. AND SR., ETHEL, AND JACKIE O.)	
Nazi/Hitler references	11
Art Vandalay references	5
Three Stooges references	4
"Get out!" shoves from Elaine	13
George has sex in an inappropriate place	4
Approximate amount of money lost by Jerry	\$34,275.50
(PLUS A TV, A STEREO RECEIVER, TWO CHARTER TICKETS TO PARIS, A BMW, AND TWO MEALS AT MENDY'S—ACTUAL VALUES UNKNOWN)	
*SCENES IN L.A. NOT INCLUDED.	



THE BIT PLAYERS

ILLUSTRATION BY DREW FRIEDMAN

Elaine suggests O.J. as a cool option. Who knew? **CRITIQUE** The Rifkin angle has not aged well. And where obsessive, irritable hankering has tickled us in the past, here it simply, uh, rubs us the wrong way. **B-**

EPISODE 71

THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

FIRST AIRED 12/9/93 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry walks a politically incorrect minefield as he pursues Native American Winona (Kimberly Norris). Elaine is stalked by a geek (Sam Lloyd). George is grounded for having sex in his parents' bed. Kramer brainstorms a coffee-table book—about coffee tables. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn Frank Costanza has saved every TV Guide fall preview since “the beginning.” **CRITIQUE** A rich episode that gives each of the four a meaty plot while still finding room for Costanza yuks and tasty guest-star bits (including an Al Roker morsel). **A-**

EPISODE 72

THE CONVERSION

FIRST AIRED 12/16/93 WRITER Kirschbaum DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** George converts to the Latvian Orthodox faith to keep Sasha (Jana Marie Hupp).

Kavorka-cursed Kramer becomes a Latvian novice nun's object of desire. Germ-phobic Jerry reconsiders a girlfriend with fungicide in her bathroom. **CRITIQUE** There's truly nothing sacred as George uses religion to realize his selfish goals and cheats on his conversion exam. **B+**

EPISODE 73

THE STALL

FIRST AIRED 1/6/94 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Elaine gets into a restroom tiff with a toilet-paper hoarder, who turns out to be Jerry's girlfriend Jane (Jami Gertz)—and Kramer's phone-sex consort. George has a crush on Elaine's “mimbo” boyfriend Tony (Dan Cortese). **HISTORIC MOMENTS** Jerry actually using his computer. George rock climbing! **CRITIQUE** The usual circuitous shenanigans, minus a fresh spin, plus deadwood guest stars Gertz and Cortese. **C-**

EPISODE 74

THE DINNER PARTY

FIRST AIRED 2/3/94 WRITER David DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** In a search for edible party favors, Jerry and Elaine get bogged down in a bakery, while George and Kramer are hung up at a liquor store. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry throws up for the first time since

June 29, 1980. **CRITIQUE** As opposed to being pleasingly exasperating, this can't-get-there-from-here morass is overacted and wearying (even Elaine's and George's usually divine pique seems labored). It's as if the show were doing a jaundiced parody of its asocial self. **C**

EPISODE 75

THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

FIRST AIRED 2/10/94 WRITERS Ron Hauge/Charlie Rubin DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry's lying saddles George with another ersatz profession—marine biology—and inadvertently jeopardizes Elaine's professional relationship with testy Russian novelist Yuri Testikov (George Murdock). **CRITIQUE** While handicapped by the Sturm und Drang of Elaine's subplot (including a loopy Carol Kane cameo—is there any other kind?), George's fish story had us hooked, especially his recounting of a heroic seaside rescue: “The sea was angry that day, my friends. Like an old man trying to send back soup at a deli...” **B+**

EPISODE 76

THE PIE

FIRST AIRED 2/17/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry is plagued by issues of sharing (a girlfriend refuses a taste of pie) and hygiene (restaurateur-chef Poppie doesn't wash his hands after a stall visit). Elaine is incensed by a look-alike store mannequin. **INTRODUCES**

Reni Santoni as Poppie, whose potty habits will continue to wreak havoc for Jerry. **CRITIQUE** Scattered chuckles, plus a funny reference to episode 71 as credits roll. Otherwise, much ado about, well, almost nothing. **C**

EPISODE 77

THE STAND-IN

FIRST AIRED 2/24/94 WRITER David DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry nearly exhausts his bag of shtick making hospitalized pal Fulton (Michael Rivkin) laugh. Kramer gets a job as an *All My Children* stand-in. Elaine is traumatized when a date “[takes] it out.” George persists in seeing a woman out of spite. **INTRODUCES** Danny Woodburn as Mickey, Kramer's “little” friend. **CRITIQUE** Stand-alone plots are a rarity, and all four here are strong. Kramer “at work” will turn out to be a can't-miss proposition; in this case he's abetted by an especially quirky milieu—the backstage politics of his lilliputian costars. **B+**

EPISODE 78

THE WIFE

FIRST AIRED 3/17/94 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Cherones **SYNOPSIS** Jerry and new girlfriend Meryl (Courteney Cox) pretend to be married—for a dry-cleaning discount—and are soon bickering like an old couple. Elaine's “open lip” kiss from a male gym acquaintance leads to assumptions. George is caught “going” in the health club's shower. **CRITIQUE** Elaine's

hyper-neurotic scrutiny of "gym boy" and Jerry's kid-playing-agrown-up routine put these two in unusually sharp focus. Kramer's interracial relationship, however, is head-scratchingly undeveloped. **B**

EPISODE 79
THE RAINCOATS
(ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 4/28/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross/David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Jerry's parents offend the Costanzas by blowing them off for dinner and take a shine to Elaine's "close-talking" beau, Aaron (Judge Reinhold). Kramer cooks up a big deal selling Morty Seinfeld's old Executive trench coats. George is guilt-tripped into Big Brotherhood. Jerry's *Schindler's List* make-out session with Rachel (Melanie Smith) puts him in the parental doghouse. CRITIQUE Despite an Emmy-nominated guest spot by Reinhold, "Raincoats" is all wet. This took four writers? **C-**

EPISODE 80
THE FIRE

FIRST AIRED 5/5/94 WRITER Charles DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS Toby (Veanne Cox)—Kramer's manic coffee-table-book editor—costs Jerry a gig when her heckling is cited in an, uh, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY pan. George impresses single-mother girlfriend Robin (*Fridays*' Melanie Chartoff) with his cowardice at her son's birthday party (*Swingers*' Jon Favreau is Eric the clown). CRITIQUE George's predicament and the fate of Toby's toe strike us as strained. But Cox's cackling effusiveness is an abrasive treat. **C**

EPISODE 81
THE HAMPTONS

FIRST AIRED 5/12/94 WRITERS Mehlman/Leifer DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS The gang visits Carol and Michael's ("You gotta see the bay-bee"—and boy, is it ugly) beach house. In a roundelay of misplaced nudity, everyone except George sees his as-yet-unbedded date, Jane (Melora Walters), topless. He, meanwhile, gets caught with his pants down by Rachel (79) while sporting significant *après-pool* shrinkage. CRITIQUE The laughs in this episode are about as big as George after a nice cold swim. **C**

EPISODE 82
THE OPPOSITE

FIRST AIRED 5/19/94 WRITERS Andy Cowan/David/Seinfeld DIR. Cherones SYNOPSIS George's epiphany—that his whole life is the opposite of what he'd intended—inspires him to act entirely against his instincts. The result: Victoria, a bachelicious girlfriend (*Cybill*'s Dedee Pfeiffer), a front-office job for the Yankees, and an apartment. Meanwhile, Elaine loses everything—in effect becoming George. Kramer promotes his coffee-table book on *Regis & Kathie Lee*

Lee. INTRODUCES George Steinbrenner, voiced by Larry David, and Marty Rackham as Jake Jarmel, the ailing boyfriend Elaine forsakes for Jujy-fruits. HISTORIC MOMENT The end of Pendant Publishing. CRITIQUE In stark contrast to "The Pilot," this seamless, elegant season finale succeeds precisely because it doesn't try too hard. Plus: We love the rare sight of George funny as hell—and happy! **A**

-SEASON SIX-

EPISODE 83
THE CHAPERONE

FIRST AIRED 9/22/94 WRITERS David/Bill Masters/Bob Shaw DIR. Andy Ackerman SYNOPSIS Kramer Svengalies Miss Rhode Island (Marguerite MacIntyre) for the Miss America Pageant. Elaine gets a job as assis-



COFFEE-TABLE TALK

KRAMER APPEARS ON REGIS & KATHIE LEE

stant to Justin Pitt, a personal friend of Jackie Onassis. George persuades the Yankees to switch to cotton uniforms. INTRODUCES Ian Abercrombie as the lordly Pitt, and Andy Ackerman as the show's new signature director. CRITIQUE Kramer-as-flaky-savant is the first show-stealing turn in what will be Richards' strongest season so far. And we like Elaine's strangely affectionate subservience to Pitt, a step up from her chemistry-free rapport with Pendant's Lippman. **B**

EPISODE 84
THE BIG SALAD

FIRST AIRED 9/29/94 WRITER David DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George's pettiness reaches new heights when girlfriend Julie (Michelle Forbes) takes credit for buying Elaine's salad. Jerry becomes unhinged after learning that current flame Margaret (Marita Geraghty) was once dumped by Newman. Kramer fears he may have incited a former baseball player to murder. CRITIQUE Arguably Newman's best episode, and cheekily clever for its White Bronco spoof. **B+**

EPISODE 85
THE PLEDGE DRIVE

FIRST AIRED 10/6/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Mr. Pitt's eating Snickers with a knife and fork sparks a craze. George thinks everyone's giving him the finger. Jerry's suggestion that Elaine's friend Noreen (Kelly Coffield) is hit-

ting on him gets Noreen's "high-talking" boyfriend Dan (Brian Reddy) all worked up. INTRODUCES Tom Wright as Yankee exec Morgan, and Billye Ree Wallace as Jerry's nana. CRITIQUE Seinfeld's savvy exploiting of idiosyncrasies (Mr. Pitt's candy bar quirk) is crucial to the show's irresistibility. Noreen, however, goes nowhere (and yet turns up again). **B-**

EPISODE 86
THE CHINESE WOMAN

FIRST AIRED 10/13/94 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Intrigued by a phone conversation with Donna Chang (Angela Dohrmann), Jerry asks her out thinking she's Chinese. Elaine convinces Noreen to dump the high-talker, only to see her take up with a "long talker." George laments his parents' breakup. Kramer's sperm test reveals he's low. CRITIQUE Donna's (real name Changstein) unconscious Chinese affectation offers a delicious array of character tics. And who can resist Kramer's concern over "his boys"? **B**

EPISODE 87
THE COUCH

FIRST AIRED 10/27/94 WRITER David DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Bibliophobe George goes to extremes to avoid reading *Breakfast at Tiffany's* for his book club. Elaine's hardline pro-choice stance hospitalizes Poppie and clashes with that of Carl (*JAG*'s David James Elliott), her otherwise-perfect moving-man beau. ("The best part is, he doesn't play games," says Elaine. "No games?" asks Jerry. "What is the point of dating without games? How do you know if you're winning...?") CRITIQUE A rare foray into hot-button politics proves more novelty than amusement. **B-**

EPISODE 88
THE GYMNAST

FIRST AIRED 11/3/94 WRITERS Alec Berg/Jeff Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George's girlfriend's mother (Lois Nettleton) suspects him of being a panhandling bum. Jerry dates Katya (Elina Lowensohn), a Romanian gymnast, expecting, well, gymnastics in bed. Elaine nearly blows Mr. Pitt's Moland Springs merger. CRITIQUE Watching George haplessly digging a hole for himself with Mrs. Enright is the high point in a pretty rote episode. Note, however, the far-flung wrap-up, with one of the show's blunter Hitler references. **C+**

EPISODE 89
THE SOUP

FIRST AIRED 11/10/94 WRITER Fred Stoller DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Oppressive comic Kenny Bania gives Jerry a brand new Armani suit in exchange for a free meal. George is blown off mid-date by a Monk's waitress (Tracy Kolis) and is determined to find out if she really *does* have a boyfriend. Elaine dates a penniless



DUMPING GROUNDS

ALTHOUGH ELAINE and George have capriciously dumped suitors (the latter, once, because of a girlfriend's fondness for the phrase "Happy, Pappy?"), Jerry is the King of the Idiosyncratic Heave-Ho—or at least the Passive-Aggressive Recoil. Here-with, the list so far; keep your eyes peeled for updates:

- ☒ For not laughing at all
- ☒ For laughing too strangely
- ☒ For having bad taste in commercials
- ☒ For having man hands
- ☒ For appearing to own only one dress
- ☒ For being too altruistic
- ☒ For not kissing on the third date
- ☒ For possibly having fake breasts
- ☒ For not giving him a massage
- ☒ For not tasting his pie
- ☒ For shushing him in front of the TV
- ☒ For suggesting he share her toothbrush
- ☒ For having been with (and getting dumped by!) Newman
- ☒ For being his soul mate
- ☒ For being liked by his parents
- ☒ For eating peas one at a time



DRESSED FOR DISTRESS

CHRISTIE'S EVERYDAY FROCK HAS JERRY COMING APART AT THE SEAMS

REGIS & KATHIE LEE: STEVE FRIEDMAN; SEINFELD: BYRON COHEN

British bounder (Daniel Gerroll), **INTRODUCES** Stephen Hytner as Mendys devotee Kenny Bania, one of the series' casting triumphs. **CRITIQUE** The squabbling over what exactly constitutes a meal—between Jerry, Bania, and Elaine—is the show at its nit-picky best. A finely tuned script that wisely modulates the eccentricity. **B+**

EPISODE 90 THE MOM & POP STORE

FIRST AIRED 11/17/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George buys a used Chrysler LeBaron convertible because he believes it belonged to Jon Voight (in a cameo). Kramer tries to help a local shoe-repair shop—and proceeds to put it out of business. **INTRODUCES** Bryan Cranston as dentist-to-the-gang Tim Whatley. **CRITIQUE** Woody Woodpecker, the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and a *Midnight Cowboy* send-up propel an improbably intricate plot that is, nevertheless, cleverly out there. **B+**

EPISODE 91 THE SECRETARY

FIRST AIRED 12/8/94 WRITERS Leifer/Margorie Gross DIR. David Owen Trainor SYNOPSIS George purposely hires a prim, unassuming secretary—Ada (Vicki Lewis)—and finds himself unraveled and undermined. Jerry discovers that Willie the dry cleaner and his wife are wearing their customers' clothes. Elaine blames Barney's skinny mirrors for dress misrepresentation. A triple-action-moisturizer mishap blows Kramer's chances with Uma Thurman. **CRITIQUE** All that, plus a second meal-mooching deal with Bania propel another improbably intricate plot that is not so cleverly out there. **B-**

EPISODE 92 THE RACE

FIRST AIRED 12/15/94 WRITERS Gammill/Pross/David/Sam Kass DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS In dating Lois (Renee Props), Jerry is reunited with Duncan (Don R. McManus), a former classmate whom he fraudulently beat in a high school race, and who is demanding a rematch. Thanks to Elaine's communist beau (Todd Kimsey), George answers a personal ad in *The Daily Worker*, and a department-store-Santa Kramer spouts propaganda to tykes. **CRITIQUE** A wacky juxtaposition (all-American Superman and the Red Menace) sets the stage for two sterling moments: George and Jerry's frank phoniness at the diner, and George's visit with an eerily Steinbrenneresque Fidel Castro. **B+**

EPISODE 93 THE SWITCH

FIRST AIRED 1/5/95 WRITERS Kirschbaum/Kass DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George suspects his model girlfriend Nina (Charlotte Lewis) is bulimic.

Jerry schemes to get dumped by his non-laughing girlfriend Sandi (Jann Karam) so as to move in on her giddy roommate, Laura (Heather Medway). Kramer reunites with estranged mom, Babs (Sheree North). **CRITIQUE** The laughs attending the unveiling of Kramer's first name (Cosmo)—and Newman's Babs connection—are topped only by J's and G's devious, *Dragnet*-like brainstorming of the roommate switch. **A-**

EPISODE 94 THE LABEL MAKER

FIRST AIRED 1/19/95 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Regifting, de-gifting, connections, and disconnections abound as Jerry haggles over the fate of a pair of Super Bowl tix with Tim the dentist, and George tries to worm his way into his girlfriend Bonnie's (Jessica Tuck) life—well, her velvet-draped pad anyway—while ridding it of her male roomie. **CRITIQUE** Kramer and Newman's inane Risk subplot mars an otherwise fine effort. **B-**

EPISODE 95 THE SCOFFLAW

FIRST AIRED 1/26/95 WRITER Mehlman DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Champion prevaricator George meets his match in "cancer victim" Gary (Jon Lovitz). Kramer ruins Elaine's post-breakup "hand" with Juicyfruits casualty Jake Jarmel (82), and discovers that Newman and his car are a local cop's Moby-Dick. **HISTORIC MOMENT** George gets a toupee. **CRITIQUE** Lovitz's Gary is a smarmy high, but the whole Melville angle (Kramer's eye patch, Newman as great white metaphor) sinks like a stone. And the Kramer-Elaine-Jarmel optical brouhaha—what was that? **B-**

EPISODE 96 THE BEARD

FIRST AIRED 2/9/95 WRITER Leifer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Elaine tries to convert a gay man. Emboldened by his toupee, George goes out on the prowl, only to fall for a bald woman. Jerry's hopes for dating a police officer are dashed after he fails a *Melrose Place* lie detector test. **CRITIQUE** How smart of them to reference the other hot show of '95. Also notable: Jerry's riff on why you can't convert gay men, the latest in a long line of sex-as-sports analogies. ("You



THAT'S RIGHT, JACK!

A TOUPEED JON LOVITZ SCAMS JERRY



ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

IN A DELIGHTFUL CAPTER TO EPISODE 93, MEL TORME SERENADES KRAMER WITH "WHEN YOU'RE SMILING" AT THE AMCA (ABLY MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULTS) BENEFIT

think you can get him to just change teams?...When you join that team, it's not a whim. He *likes* his team.... They're only comfortable with their equipment.") **B+**

EPISODE 97 THE KISS HELLO

FIRST AIRED 2/16/95 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Kramer's camaraderie-stimulating wall of tenant photos makes standoffish Jerry a building outcast. The gang finds its self-centered equal in Elaine's physical therapist friend Wendy (*Just Shoot Me*'s Wendie Malick), she of the "high school yearbook" hair (coproducer Carol Leifer plays her receptionist). **CRITIQUE** The Uncle Leo/Nana racetrack angle seems like filler in an otherwise top-notch episode. As always, sitcom staple Malick spices things up. **B+**

EPISODE 98 THE DOORMAN

FIRST AIRED 2/23/95 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Jerry, thinking he's appeasing Mr. Pitt's abrasive doorman (Larry Miller) by covering for him, instead falls prey to his "sting." Kramer designs the Bro (a.k.a. the Manssiere) for the bosomy Mr. Costanza. **CRITIQUE** Miller's sinister turn, Estelle Costanza discovering a bra-clad Frank and Kramer cha-cha-ing, and an ingenious *Marathon Man* homage—all that, and Poppie, too! **A-**

EPISODE 99 THE JIMMY

FIRST AIRED 3/16/95 WRITERS Gregg Kavet/Andy Robin DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Visits to Tim the dentist leave Jerry believing the doc's a pervert and strangers believing an over-anesthetized Kramer is mentally challenged. George's excessive sweating implicates him in Yankees pilfering. Gym habitué and third-person-speakin' Jimmy (Anthony Starke) hits on an unsuspecting Elaine. **INTRODUCES** Richard Herd as the Yankees' absent-minded travel-

ing secretary Wilhelm. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Kramer thinks George Will is attractive—although not all that bright. **CRITIQUE** A brilliant device for Kramer (yielding the best depiction of the fine man/child line he walks) makes this a highlight. **A**

EPISODE 100 THE DOODLE

FIRST AIRED 4/6/95 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS A Newman-instigated flea infestation in apartment 5A leads to Elaine losing a plum Viking Press gig, Kramer losing his sense of taste, and Jerry losing a girlfriend (Dana Wheeler-Nicholson) after he refuses to share her toothbrush. George dates a woman (Christa Miller again) who doesn't care what he looks like. **CRITIQUE** The Seinfeld elders' trashing of a Plaza suite is just one of the absurd bits we aren't buyin'. **C+**

EPISODE 101 THE FUSILLI JERRY

FIRST AIRED 4/27/95 WRITERS Gross/Jonathan Gross/Ron Haugel/Charlie Rubin DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS Elaine dates Jerry's grease-monkey pal David Puddy and discovers that he's stolen Jerry's "move" (it requires a headboard). Kramer tries to live up to his "Assman" vanity plates. **INTRODUCES** Patrick Warburton (*Dave's World*) as Puddy, "the only honest mechanic in New York." **HISTORIC MOMENT** Establishes the K-Man's hobby of sculpting with pasta. **CRITIQUE** The triumph here is in taking two wildly divergent comic tacks (butt-joke juvenility and the comparatively sophisticated sex-as-stand-up-routine metaphor) and making them equally winning. **A**

EPISODE 102 THE DIPLOMAT

FIRST AIRED 5/4/95 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman SYNOPSIS George desperately seeks African-American friends after Morgan implies he's a racist. Pitt suspects that after adding Elaine to his will, she is trying >>

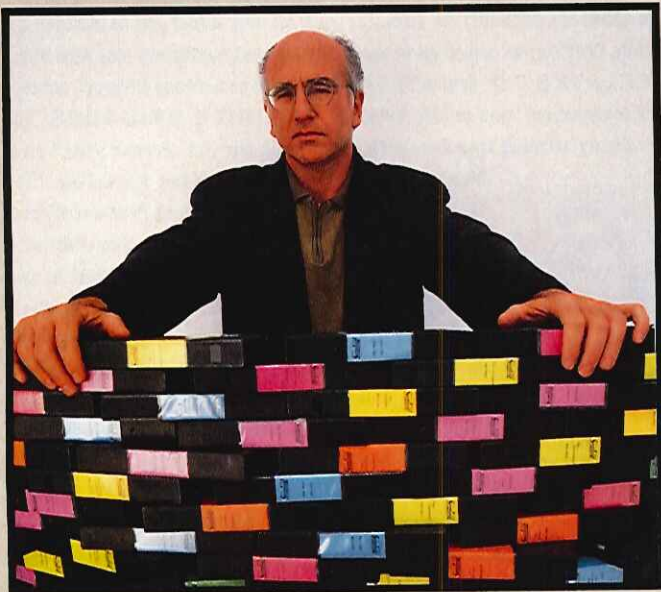
JERRY RIGGERS

LIKE THEIR BELOVED YANKEES, THE *SEINFELD* CREW is very much a team—a big one, too. There's not enough room to tip our hats to each and every behind-the-scenes player, but here (and on the next few pages) is a peek at a handful of MVPs. —A.J. Jacobs

LARRY DAVID

COCREATOR, FORMER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
AGE: 49 CREDITS: *Fridays*, *Saturday Night Live*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Until quitting last year, David was *Seinfeld*'s version of the Soup Nazi, only nicer: He was the committed perfectionist who oversaw the sitcom's every detail. "The whole show was filtered through his sensibility," says current coexec producer Peter Mehlman. A former New York stand-up, David conceived the show with Jerry while at a grocery store riffing on products. He wrote roughly 60 episodes and rewrote too many to count, but found the whole process as painful as natural childbirth. "I set the bar very high for myself," says David. "I couldn't live with bad shows." David—who says it was "weird" not working on the '96-'97 season—is currently shooting *Sour Grapes*, a black comedy (surprise!) starring *Wings*' Steven Weber. **RE-LATES TO:** George. "He was a vehicle to act out my baser, sicker thoughts. And there are a lot of those." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** Among others, "The Contest," "The Rye," and "The Boyfriend"—"because I loved having lunch with Keith Hernandez." **CENSORED:** David insists NBC never nixed any language. "Sometimes we'd say 'penis' seven times in an episode. They'd say, 'Make it four.'" **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** "Every single show there was something." For starters, David was once master of his domain. And the pitch meeting in "The Pilot" mirrored his and Jerry's. "I remember one Castle Rock exec looked quite appalled." And, of course, the inspiration for Kramer—Kenny Kramer, 53—a former neighbor, now running for mayor of New York. "I'd vote for him," says David, "because he's incorporated the name tag issue into his platform" (see episode 68). Though Richards' character is zanier, both Kramers "did well with women. I was quite in awe of his prowess."



ANDY ACKERMAN

DIRECTOR
AGE: 40 CREDITS: *Wings*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Taking over in the sixth season (former director Tom Cherones went on to direct *Ellen* and *NewsRadio*, among other shows), Ackerman found *Seinfeld* was "unlike any other show. It's like doing a little movie every week." In other words, more scenes, plenty of location shoots, and fewer boring close-ups. "Andy is definitely visually ambitious," says Seinfeld. "He likes to spend the extra four hours to mount a camera inside a toilet bowl." After wrapping the last episode of this season, Ackerman moonlighted as director of NBC's upcoming *Jenny*, which he promises is free of fart and vomit jokes. "It felt like it was the maturing of Jenny McCarthy." **SECRETS:** By now, the Big Four rarely need acting tips. Richards, however, likes to rehearse more than the others ("He's got all the physical stuff [to work out], and he admits he has trouble learning his lines compared to the other three"). And when he arrived, Ackerman urged Jerry to take his role more seriously. "I told him it's kind of endearing when the audience sees you crack up, but at the same time it's sort of distracting." Now, he says, "Jerry's really getting good." **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Thank God for pillows and kitchen counters, two ways Ackerman found to disguise Louis-Dreyfus' pregnancy this spring. **FAVORITE EPISODE:** Ackerman says "The Rye" was a particularly fun shoot—the cast took advantage of the winterized set and started an off-camera snowball fight.



BEHIND
THE
SCENES

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOWNE; BRONX CORNH; LOUIS Z. GARDI; BARRY; THIS PAGE: AGENCY; MONTAGE; GROOMING: LOUI MATSUHARA/CLOUTIER

to kill him. Jerry freaks out during a frustrating trip home from a gig. **INTRODUCES** Debra Jo Rupp as Jerry's pesky, micromanaging agent, Katie. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** We learn of Kramer's gambling problem, and that Newman inherited Son of Sam's mail route—and once double-dated with him! **CRITIQUE** Laughs from unlikely sources: a convincingly angry Jerry and a wistfully nostalgic Elaine (in her *The Way We Were* Pitt reverie, after he fires her). George, on the other hand, is reliably ridiculous. **B**

EPISODE 103

THE FACE PAINTER

FIRST AIRED 5/11/95 **WRITERS** David Stoller **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George finally speaks the L-word, only to fear that the object of his desire—fellow toilet-paper enthusiast Siena (Drew Carey's Katy Selverstone)—didn't hear him. David Puddy's (101) hockey-game face-painting has Elaine reconsidering their relationship. Kramer must apologize to a chimpanzee (Barry). **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that George has never said I love you, except to a dog. **CRITIQUE** We love Puddy's outer-borough dolt. But again with a hearing-impaired girlfriend (57 and 67)? **B**

EPISODE 104

THE UNDERSTUDY

FIRST AIRED 5/18/95 **WRITERS** Gross/Leifer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** When

George injures Bette Midler during a celebrity softball game, Kramer gets a shot at nursing his idol and Jerry's girlfriend Gennice gets a shot at the lead in *Rochelle, Rochelle: The Musical*. Mr. Costanza aids Elaine in a nail-salon caper, and rediscovers his lost Korean love. **INTRODUCES** John O'Hurley as pretentious and long-winded catalog magnate J. Peterman. **CRITIQUE** A particularly one-note Jerry relationship, but also a priceless example of the show's unerring ability to tap into common insecurities (the manicurists), and typically judicious celeb casting. **B+**

-SEASON SEVEN-

EPISODE 105

THE ENGAGEMENT

FIRST AIRED 9/21/95 **WRITER** David Dir. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The end of two painfully superficial Jerry and George relationships prompts the friends to strike a pact and "become men." George assumes this means marriage and proposes to Susan; Jerry quickly comes to his senses. Elaine hires Kramer and Newman to kidnap a noisy dog. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Oddly, given the show's signature brazenness, Seinfeld says the dog-napping incident generated the most flak from viewers. **CRITIQUE** A killer first 10 minutes, in which Jerry and George's wheel-spinning immaturity

is totally nailed. It also leads off a season that will see *Seinfeld's* already Rube Goldbergian plots get even denser and more complex. **A-**

EPISODE 106

THE POSTPONEMENT

FIRST AIRED 9/28/95 **WRITER** David Dir. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine—overcome with feelings of bitterness over "loser" George's engagement—confides her jealousy in a blabbermouth rabbi (Bruce Mahler). George, panicked and resentful over his hasty betrothal, attempts to delay the wedding. Kramer's café latte jones (he's been sucking 'em down since fifth grade) creates a litigious situation. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry finally sees *Plan 9 From Outer Space*. **CRITIQUE** George's premarital squirming is, of course, a pleasure. But like the motel of episode 66, the rebbe is a preposterous, off-putting caricature. **C+**

EPISODE 107

THE MAESTRO

FIRST AIRED 10/5/95 **WRITER** David Dir. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's compassion for a clothing-store security guard turns into a disastrous crusade. The settlement of Kramer's lawsuit with Java World leaves him all hopped-up. Elaine dates the Maestro, a pretentious conductor Jerry suspects of lying about Tuscany rentals. **INTRODUCES** Phil Morris as Johnnie Cochran-style lawyer Jackie

Chiles, who'll represent Kramer in future mishaps; and Mark Metcalf as the Maestro. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry and Kramer in Europe. **CRITIQUE** Cheeky references galore (a high-profile McDonald's lawsuit, *A Room With a View*, the O.J. trial) pepper this otherwise hollow mélange. **C+**

EPISODE 108

THE WINK

FIRST AIRED 10/12/95 **WRITERS** Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Opposites attract, then combust: Dog-hating Elaine dates multiple-dog owner and wake-up caller James (Brian McNamara); newly vegetarian Jerry takes up with Elaine's mutton-lovin' cousin, Holly (Stacey Travis). Somehow, grapefruit pulp in George's eye leads to Morgan's dismissal and George's promotion. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Jerry calls Kramer "Jughead," prompting Kramer to dub Jerry "Archie," Elaine "Veronica," and George "Mr. Weatherbee." **CRITIQUE** For a plot so steeped in foodstuffs, there's curiously little to chew on. **C+**

EPISODE 109

THE HOT TUB

FIRST AIRED 10/19/95 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's theory—that when you look annoyed all the time, people think you're busy—backfires. Elaine's inability to set an alarm clock, Kramer's faulty hot tub, and Jerry's



LARRY CHARLES

FORMER WRITER/PRODUCER

AGE: 40 CREDITS: *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *Fridays*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Call him *Seinfeld's* Prince of Darkness. As a staffer for the first four seasons, Charles wrote some of the blackest episodes of the notoriously hug-free series, wringing humor from neo-Nazis ("The Limo"), serial killers ("The Trip"), and the homeless ("The Library"). He even got to kill Jerry in a bullet-riddled fantasy sequence ("The Baby Shower"). "So many places they ask you to shave the edge off," he says. "At *Seinfeld* they asked you to sharpen it." Ironically, Charles has moved on to exec produce that sentiment-fest *Mad About You*. **RELATES TO:** Kramer. They're both "into conspiracy theories, strange psychic connections, and cosmic thinking." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** The entire Emmy-winning fourth season. "That was our *Sgt. Pepper* year," says

Charles, who praises the intricate plot connections. "The show went from *I Love Lucy* to Thomas Pynchon, from Al Hirt to John Coltrane." **CENSORED:** Two of Charles' scripts were spunked for being too darn twisted: In one, Elaine bought a gun; in another, George made an inadvertent racist remark ("I've never seen a black person order a salad.") **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Writing for Elaine. That is, until "we stopped trying to treat her like a woman and said, 'She can be just as neurotic and troubled as the rest.'" (The change occurred with

Elaine's clingy boyfriend in "The Busboy.") **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** In an L.A. bookstore, Charles once cornered Richard Dreyfuss and pitched a movie. ("I was so excited I started to hyperventilate," remembers Charles.) That spawned Kramer's similar assault on Fred Savage in "The Trip," the fourth-season opener.



BEHIND
THE
SCENES



Fred and Fran are so happy.

They are having a

BBQ.

Fred **lights** the fire! Fran **claps** her hands!

Fred asks Fran to please explain what the
strange new thing is on the grill!?

Fran tells Fred it's a burger with no meat.

"No meat??" Fred is confused.

Fran tells him to shut up and eat it already.

Fred always listens to Fran.

He eats & eats & eats.

Fred and Fran are **SO** happy.

Discover the combination of fresh mushrooms, brown rice,
onions, cheese and spices that has over 200 million people
licking their chops in restaurants everywhere. They're
100% natural with only three grams of fat and 130 calories.
Look for Gardenburger® now wherever frozen foods are sold.

Gardenburger. Eating good just got great.™



www.gardenburger.com

good intentions are a losing strategy for New York Marathon runner Jean-Paul Jean-Paul (Jeremiah Birkett). **CRITIQUE** Effective if predictable doings; you can see Jean-Paul's downfall coming from 26 miles away. And this is the third subplot hinging on Elaine's inability to wake up promptly (one of them just last week). What gives? **B-**

EPISODE 110

THE SOUP NAZI

FIRST AIRED 11/2/95 **WRITER** Spike Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The excellence of a local soup merchant's (Larry Thomas) product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique-collecting thugs (John Paragon and Yul Vazquez) terrorize Kramer. **CRITIQUE** You know, despite all the attention this Emmy-nominated episode got (partly because it's based on a real NYC vendor), the idea is funnier than the execution. **B**

EPISODE 111

THE SECRET CODE

FIRST AIRED 11/9/95 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's ATM code instigates the passing of J. Peterman's mother. Jerry's chronic foot-sleeping offends limpin' electronics-discount king Leapin' Larry (Lewis Arquette). Elaine goes for

hapless Fred (Fred Stoller) simply because he can't remember her. **CRITIQUE** A disjointed effort, clumsily balanced on the head of a PIN. **C+**

EPISODE 112

THE POOL GUY

FIRST AIRED 11/16/95 **WRITER** David Mandel **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George loses it when Elaine—upon realizing she has no gal pals—befriends Susan. Jerry gets an unwanted buddy in the form of Ramon (Carlos Jacott), the pool guy at his club. Kramer's new phone number—one digit off from Movie Phone—provides him with a new (pre)occupation. **CRITIQUE** Forget the Ramon bit, it's Kramer-as-phone-recording and George's panic at watching his worlds colliding ("relationship George" with "independent George") that drive this doozy. **A-**

EPISODE 113

THE SPONGE

FIRST AIRED 12/7/95 **WRITER** Mehlman **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** After getting a woman's number off an AIDS Walk list, Jerry fears she's too good ("You can't have sex with someone you admire!"). Elaine's loyalty to her discontinued birth control method (the Today Sponge) prompts hoarding and a new boyfriend-screening process. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn that Jerry relabels his jeans (from a 32" to 31"

waist). **CRITIQUE** Eminently sponge-worthy. **A-**

EPISODE 114

THE GUM

FIRST AIRED 12/14/95 **WRITERS** Gammill/Pross **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer takes both a rehabilitated movie theater and post-nervous breakdown Lloyd Braun (68) under his wing. George meets Deena, a high school chum who's convinced he's having a breakdown. **HISTORIC MOMENT** That's cocreator Larry David refusing to change George's \$20 bill. **INTRODUCES** Mary Jo Keenan as Deena, who will make two more cameos, always catching George at his most unhinged; and Ruth Cohen as Monk's cashier Ruthie Cohen. **CRITIQUE** See it for a thickly bespectacled Jerry doing rare—and rewarding—physical sthick. **B+**

EPISODE 115

THE RYE

FIRST AIRED 1/4/96 **WRITER** Leifer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine's desire to do "everything" proves disastrous for sponge-worthy sax player John (Jeff Yagher). The Costanzas meet Susan's stuffy parents and clash over any number of topics—most significantly a "de-gifted" loaf of marble rye. Moonlighting hansom-cab driver Kramer takes the Rosses for an aromatic, Beef-A-Reeno-fueled ride. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A frustrating trip to

Schnitzer's Bakery results in Jerry mugging an elderly woman (Frances Bay, who will get her revenge in 118). **CRITIQUE** It's no mean feat tackling two potentially tasteless topics (flatulence and oral sex) in one prime-time setting. To do it so elegantly is just icing on the rye. **A**

EPISODE 116

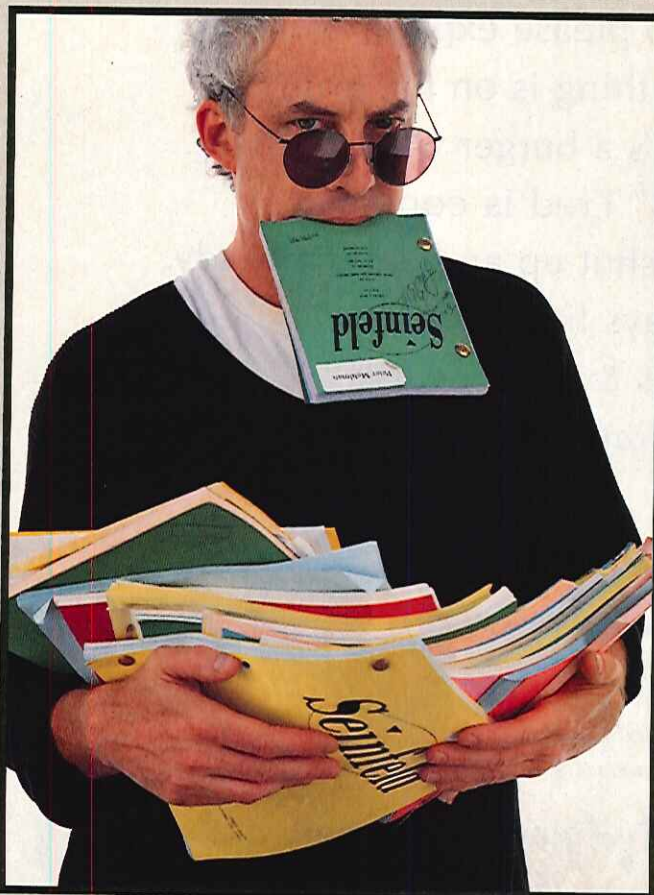
THE CADDY

FIRST AIRED 1/25/96 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer makes his caddy, Stan (*Deep Space Nine*'s Armin Shimerman), his consigliere. Elaine's high school nemesis—"Braless Wonder" Sue Ellen Mischke—resurfaces, and Elaine's attempts to mend her "free-wheelin'" ways lead to a car accident, an O.J.-esque trial, and a new Peterman catalog item. **INTRODUCES** Brenda Strong as smug Oh Henry! candy-bar heiress Mischke, who will further irk Elaine in 124 and 135. **CRITIQUE** The caddy angle is disposable, but Elaine's beautifully articulated, anti-Mischke furor is something any red-blooded woman can endorse. **B+**

EPISODE 117

THE SEVEN

FIRST AIRED 2/1/96 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry is perplexed by Christie (Lisa Deanne), a woman who always appears to wear the same dress. Newman arbi-



PETER MEHLMAN

WRITER/COEXECUTIVE PRODUCER
AGE: 40 CREDITS: *Wings*

JOB DESCRIPTION: Mehlman is the survivor. The author of the first freelance episode (season one's "The Apartment") and 18 others since, he's helped run the show with Seinfeld in the post-Larry David era. "I've always thought my biggest accomplishment was avoiding the mines," says Mehlman. "The first couple of years, you could say the wrong thing and you were completely out of favor." This season, Mehlman has pushed the wackiness envelope. "The small stories become increasingly harder to find," he explains. "When you're on the air for eight [seasons], you have to get more creative—and it helps that your budget is virtually unlimited." A former journalist, Mehlman was hired by Jerry largely on the strength of a droll *New York Times* article about star-spotting. "I had never written dialogue in my life, other than making up quotes." That, and one "disastrous" rewritten *Wings* script. **RELATES TO:** Jerry. "We've had a somewhat similar life: living in New York, coming out to L.A., dating experiences." **FAVORITE EPISODES:** Among others, "The Hamptons" "because it was like a French farce with people going in and out of rooms." And "The Yada Yada": "That was a real throwback to the old days. No action, all talking." **CENSORED:** *Entertainment Tonight* refused to lend its theme song to the episode about Kramer's Mary Hart-induced seizures. **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Writing for Kramer. "My strategy is to come up with very sane stories and then let his personality take it to crazy places." **STOLEN FROM LIFE:** A guy at Mehlman's gym actually looks like Salman Rushdie. "Also, the double dip was something that happened at a party. That was a godsend—you dream of something like that." And "I'm embarrassed to say I once asked an airline about a death-in-the-family fare." (All in episode 57.)

trates a Kramer-Elaine dispute over a bike. George is incensed when a couple steals his preferred baby name (Seven—Mickey Mantle's number). **CRITIQUE** Newman's overblown take on Solomon and Jerry's escalating pique over his girlfriend's superhero-like approach to fashion eclipse a rather harping George. **B**

EPISODE 118

THE CADILLAC (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 2/8/96 WRITERS David/Seinfeld DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** A particularly fat stand-up check prompts Jerry to buy his father a Cadillac, which provokes a Jack Klompus-led impeachment of condo-board prez Mr. Seinfeld. George becomes aware of—then obsessed with—an opportunity to date Marisa Tomei (in a cameo). Kramer plays cat and mouse with a cable guy. **CRITIQUE** What a bad parental *Seinfeld* spin-off might look like. Throw in a woefully silly Kramer angle and you're watching a car wreck. **C-**

EPISODE 119

THE SHOWERHEAD

FIRST AIRED 2/15/96 WRITERS Mehlman/Gross DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The building's new low-flow showerheads wreak havoc on Kramer's and Jerry's hair. The Costanzas and the exiled Seinfelds play chicken over who will move to Florida and who

will stay in New York. Elaine's Peterman trip to Africa ("There's a Masai sandal...") is jeopardized by her predilection for poppy-seed muffins. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A second *Tonight Show* appearance for Jerry (Jay Leno cameos). **CRITIQUE** Abrasive parental stuff—this time astute. The rest is as flat as Kramer's insufficiently rinsed hair. **C+**

EPISODE 120

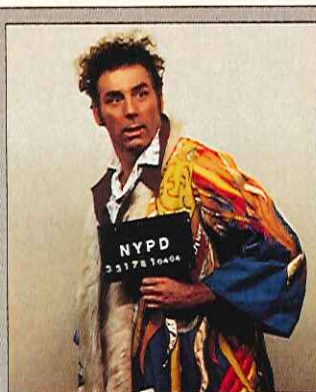
THE DOLL

FIRST AIRED 2/22/96 WRITERS Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry must go on Charles Grodin with *nothin'* when Memphis FedEx exec Sally (Kathy Griffin) screws up a barbecue-sauce delivery (hello?). George's apartment becomes home to Susan's dolls—one of which is a dead ringer for Mrs. Costanza (hello?). Elaine must get an autograph from "the third" of the Three Tenors to reconnect with the Maestro (107), who has a photo from their Tuscany trip of a guy who Frank Costanza believes is his long-lost cousin Carlo (hellooooo?). **CRITIQUE** Hello? **C**

EPISODE 121

THE FRIARS CLUB

FIRST AIRED 3/7/96 WRITER Mandel DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine is convinced new Peterman employee Bob Grossberg (Rob Schneider) is faking deafness. Prospective Friar Jerry forgets to return a borrowed Club



COLOR HIM BUSTED

THE WIG MASTERS LOAN OF JOSEPH'S AMAZING DREAMCOAT PAINTS KRAMER AS A PIMP

jacket, only to have it "misplaced" by The Flying Sandos Brothers (The Flying Karamazov Brothers). Kramer's latest Big Idea—Da Vinci sleep—nearly kills him. **CRITIQUE** More pointless repetition; this is the fourth time hearing issues have been played for laughs, not to mention another jacket-dependent riff. Only Kramer saves the day. **C+**

EPISODE 122

THE WIG MASTER

FIRST AIRED 4/4/96 WRITER Feresten DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Another smarmy Brit—this one a clothing salesman (Harry Van Gorkum)—is the cata-

lyst for Jerry's feeling emasculated and Elaine's suspecting she is being strung along for sex. A parking-lot prostitution ring and Susan's guest, Ethan the wig master (*Ellen*'s Patrick Bristow), are the catalysts for George's appearing to be a john and Kramer a pimp. **CRITIQUE** A bedroom farce minus the bedrooms, and a breath of fresh air after the clumsy, shrill escapades of recent episodes. Kramer's mack-daddy transformation is another example of how gracefully this show can still pull off the ludicrous. **A-**

EPISODE 123

THE CALZONE

FIRST AIRED 4/25/96 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine keeps company with Todd Gack (John D'Aquino), a guy who won't admit they're dating despite the tell-tale signs. Jerry makes use of the persuasive talents of Nicki (Danette Tays), a "bold and beautiful...Godzilla" men can't say no to. George hooks Steinbrenner on a particular calzone, only to be banished from the pizzeria. **CRITIQUE** Contained and by the book, in a good way. **B**

EPISODE 124

THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT (ONE HOUR)

FIRST AIRED 5/2/96 WRITERS Kavet/Robin DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** A deranged mechanic (Brad Garrett) abducts

TOM AZZARI

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

AGE: 57 CREDITS: *Spin City*, *Newhart*, *Night Court*

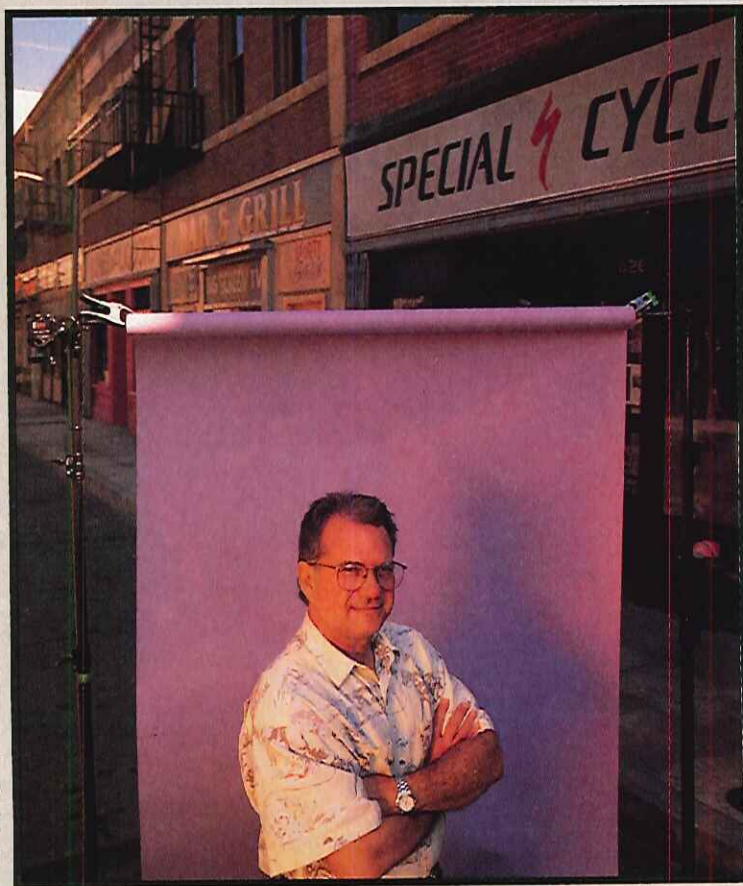
JOB DESCRIPTION: As the guy who designs and decorates *Seinfeld*'s sets, Azzari has the monster task of re-creating the Upper West Side on the West Coast. The '95-'96 season alone had 285 sets. "That's more than *Cheers* had in its entire run," he says.

SECRETS: Keep it real. "There are no funny sets," he says. "We're not talking Pee-wee Herman here." For instance, George's parents' house "really rings true. It looks a lot like my aunt's house in Bayside [Queens]." Another tip: Keep the background in the background. In Jerry's apartment, for instance, Azzari eventually switched the blue-and-black couch to a more subdued green because "you want the actors to really stand out."

NO-NOS: Azzari promises we'll never get to see Kramer's entire apartment: "I think it would be a gag on a gag. I don't know if I could live up to that character—it would be going over the top." **HIGHLIGHTS:** Building an \$800,000 rat-free version of a New York street, complete with rain and steam machines and a full array of shops, which debuted in 1994. (Azzari did get one detail wrong: A viewer pointed out that New York liquor stores don't sell beer—see episode 74.) Other proud moments include turning the site of *Gilligan's Island*'s lagoon into Central Park, and building a \$110,000 subway car using parts from the set of *Ghost*.



BEHIND THE SCENES



KRAMER: DAN ZATZ

Jerry's car (along with JFK's golf clubs, bought at an auction by Elaine for Mr. Peterman); George is mistakenly committed to a mental institution; and Kramer and Newman hit upon a lucrative recycling scam that has them Michigan-bound. **CRITIQUE** Unlike the smart, elaborate construction of their best episodes, "Bottle Deposit" seems like one sprawling ad-lib. At this point, the prospect of an hour-long episode incites dread. **C**

EPISODE 125

THE WAIT OUT

FIRST AIRED 5/9/96 **WRITERS** Mehlman/
Matt Selman **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine and Jerry pounce on newly separated couple David (Cary Elwes) and Beth (Ned and Stacey's Debra Messing) after a "folksy" comment from George splits them up. Kramer starts wearing jeans again. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Elaine drives (badly). **CRITIQUE** Highlights the latest expression of a trend that will continue into next season: This year, as Elaine's look has become increasingly (and, we think, inappropriately) glam, her appealingly aggressive spunk has crossed the line into obnoxious boorishness. Why? **C+**

EPISODE 126

THE INVITATIONS

FIRST AIRED 5/16/96 **WRITER** David Dir.
Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** In the series' most controversial episode, Susan



ALL THUMBS

ELAINE DANCES HER WAY TO OFFICE JOKE

Biddle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding-invitation envelopes—to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal-lovin', wisecrackin', Superman-obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman (Janeane Garofalo), and proposes marriage—to his immediate distress ("I can't be with someone like me—I hate myself!"). **CRITIQUE** A sublime coda for the season and cocreator David. However, the resulting uproar over the macabre callousness of this episode perplexes us. This is, after all, a show where Jerry once mugged an old woman for a loaf of bread. **A**

-SEASON EIGHT-

EPISODE 127

THE FOUNDATION

FIRST AIRED 9/19/96 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The Rosses establish a foundation in Susan's honor. To his disgust and surprise, George finds that (1) he's on the board of directors, and (2) his dead fiancée was worth millions. Elaine—now running the show, with burnt-out Peterman in Burma—fashions the Urban Sombrero. Kramer takes up karate. **INTRODUCES** Bruce Davison as Mr. Wyck, chairman of Susan's foundation. **HISTORIC MOMENT** No more opening stand-up; Seinfeld is now too busy picking up the creative slack in David's absence. **CRITIQUE** A solid return, capitalizing nicely, yet again, on an untimely demise. Kramer's encounter with the "little fists of fury," however, foreshadows the more slapsticky bent of this season. **B+**

EPISODE 128

THE SOUL MATE

FIRST AIRED 9/26/96 **WRITER** Mehlman **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer's attraction to Jerry's new girlfriend, Pam (Kim Myers), makes a formerly blasé Jerry gaga over her. Elaine, in turn, is gonzo for her flighty equal, Kevin. George—thinking Wyck suspects him of guilt in Susan's death—pulls a

"Jerry Lewis" and secretly tapes a foundation meeting. **INTRODUCES** Tim DeKay as Kevin, Bizarro Jerry in the next episode. **HISTORIC MOMENT** A boyishly cropped Elaine. **CRITIQUE** An agreeable paean to infatuation, despite an awful Jerry-chasing-Newman bit (see foreshadowing in previous critique). **B**

EPISODE 129

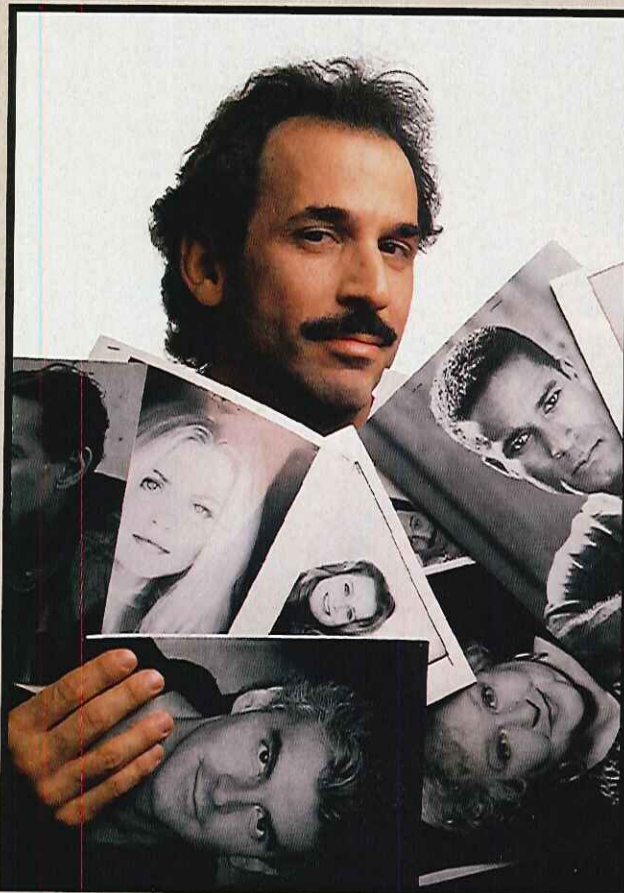
THE BIZARRO JERRY

FIRST AIRED 10/3/96 **WRITER** Mandel **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry's whole system breaks down as George becomes a model magnet, Kramer becomes a nine-to-five suit, and Elaine takes up with a trio of new buds (Kevin, Gene, and Feldman), the sensitive, cerebral opposites of her current klatch. If that isn't enough, Jerry's dating Gillian (Kristin Bauer), a man-handled woman. **CRITIQUE** This Superman reference writ large makes for the first post-David masterpiece. Two inspired moments: Jerry's wifely bickering with ersatz exec Kramer and the sidewalk showdown between Elaine's two worlds. **A**

EPISODE 130

THE LITTLE KICKS

FIRST AIRED 10/10/96 **WRITER** Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine's dancing ("a full-body dry heave set to music") makes her an object of ridicule among her staff. When Peterman employee Anna (Rebecca McFarland) gets a



MARC HIRSCHFELD

CASTING DIRECTOR

AGE: 40 **CREDITS:** *Married...With Children*, *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd*, *The Larry Sanders Show*

JOB DESCRIPTION: On board from the get-go, Hirschfeld not only helped choose the major players but has cast enough quirky, memorable guest stars to fill the Manhattan white pages. "It's an extremely intense experience," he says. "As opposed to the one or two guest stars you have on *Friends* or *Frasier*, we just had an episode with 26 roles." **SECRETS:** Bucking sitcom tradition, Hirschfeld opts for dramatic, intense actors (e.g., *Schindler's List*'s Elina Lowensohn in "The Gymnast"). "They understand that it's important to commit to the character," he says. He also looks for unusual, "textured" faces, à la Len Lesser (Uncle Leo) or Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza). "We're not casting a soap opera here." **HIGHLIGHTS:**

Though the network at first pooh-poohed them, *Seinfeld*'s supporting cast has proven to be the finest in sitcomland. How'd Hirschfeld choose them? Louis-Dreyfus beat out Rosie O'Donnell and hundreds of other actresses with her "honesty and directness." Alexander bested Larry Miller (*Common Law*) by playing up George's neuroses. And Richards had been a Hirschfeld fave ever since he tried out for *MWC*'s Al Bundy. Meanwhile, many of Hirschfeld's guest stars have vaulted onto Hollywood's A list (see page 31).

"Even from the start, a lot of industry people watched the show," he says. **BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** Casting Elaine's head-shaving boyfriend (episode 137), a role that eventually went to John Michael Higgins (*The Late Shift*). "We had to find an actor just crazy enough to do it," says Hirschfeld. The realism-loving producers, you see, insisted the actor actually shave his scalp.



BEHIND
THE
SCENES

crush on George, believing him to be a "bad boy," he eagerly makes like a latter-day Fonzie. Kramer's pistol-packin' pal Brody (Neil Giuntoli) forces Jerry to become a video-bootlegging auteur. **CRITIQUE** Jerry's and George's forays into delinquency pay off, but Elaine's spastic mutation of the Hitchhike provides the mother lode. Sweet fancy Moses! **A**

EPISODE 131

THE PACKAGE

FIRST AIRED 10/17/96 WRITER Jennifer Crittenden DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** "Difficult" Elaine is shunned by the medical community. George pursues a misguided "dance" of seduction with photo-shop employee Sheila (Heather Campbell). Thanks to Kramer, Jerry is investigated for mail fraud. **CRITIQUE** Elaine is not nearly as difficult as watching this flaccid package. The medical-establishment-as-conspiratorial-secret-society gambit is a loser, and so is an overused Newman; like any pungent seasoning, he's best in small amounts. **C-**

EPISODE 132

THE FATIGUES

FIRST AIRED 10/31/96 WRITERS Kavet/Robin DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** It's mentor madness, as Jerry, Elaine, and George find themselves guiding the careers of hack Ovaltine comic Bania, soldier-of-fortune mail-room guy Eddie Sherman (Ned Bellamy), and risk-management student Abby (My So-Called Life's A.J. Langer). Kramer's hosting of a Jewish singles night provokes Frank Costanza's Platoon-like memories of a Korean War cooking debacle. **CRITIQUE** Bania's wide-eyed ranking ("That's gold, Jerry, gold!") just slays us, as does most of this military-tinged romp. **B**

EPISODE 133

THE CHECKS

FIRST AIRED 11/7/96 WRITERS Steve O'Donnell/Gammill/Pross DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry (very) modestly cashes in on Japanese stardom thanks to a spot on *The Super Terrific Happy Hour*. Kramer puts up a trio of Japanese tourists. Elaine dates Überyuppie Brett (James Patrick Stuart), a "Desperado" devotee who won't share his song. **HISTORIC MOMENT** Wilhelm is abducted by the Sunshine Carpet Cleaners cult. **CRITIQUE** A



READY TO RUMBLE

JERRY AND KRAMER PUT CHAMPION COCK LITTLE JERRY THROUGH HIS PACES

plethora of in-jokes (references to the Urban Sombrero, the NBC pilot, Jerry's stand-up act, etc.) and one unforgettable image—the Japanese bunking in Kramer's dresser—make this B-worthy. Our weariness with yet another eccentric-to-the-max Elaine boyfriend demotes it to a **B-**.

EPISODE 134

THE CHICKEN ROASTER

FIRST AIRED 11/14/96 WRITERS Berg/Schaffer DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer's Newman-abetted Kenny Rogers Roasters addiction overcomes his initial boycotting of the chain. Elaine's expense-account abuse takes her to Burma in search of Peterman and sends George on a misguided pursuit of a hat saleswoman. **CRITIQUE** An episode as unconvincing as Seinfeld's acting (highlighted here in a brief Jerry-and-Kramer identity switch) is salvaged by Kramer and Newman's clandestine gluttony. **B-**

EPISODE 135

THE ABSTINENCE

FIRST AIRED 11/21/96 WRITER Steve Koren DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** George's forced celibacy turns him into a *Phenomenon*-style brainiac. Elaine dates a doofus almost-doctor, Ben (Bob Odenkirk), and tries the no-sex route, with brain-draining results. Kramer's at-home smoking lounge ends in a tobacco-company lawsuit. **HISTORIC MOMENT** We learn of a second alma mater that Jerry and George share, Edward R. Murrow Junior High School, when Jerry is bumped from their Career Day. **CRITIQUE** Another foray into bizarro land as Elaine and George become mental opposites. But we don't mind repetition when it yields such smart comedy. Bonus points for the David Letterman closer. **B+**

EPISODE 136

THE ANDREA DORIA

FIRST AIRED 12/19/96 WRITER Feresten DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** To score a two-bedroom apartment, George must convince a tenant board he's more pathetic than a shipwreck survivor. Big-headed Elaine dates bad breaker-upper Alan (Tom Gallup). Newman's dreams of a Hawaii transfer get surprising support from Jerry. M.D.-hating Kramer seeks a doggy-style cure for his cough. **CRITIQUE** With Kramer channeling Lassie and George playing the victim to the hilt, how can you miss? **B**

EPISODE 137

THE LITTLE JERRY

FIRST AIRED 1/9/97 WRITER Crittenden DIR. Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer buys a rooster and is soon running afoul of cockfighting impresario/deli owner Marcelino (*Murder One*'s Miguel Sandoval). George finds out that fugitive sex is even better than conjugal-visit sex when convict squeeze Celia (Andrea Bendewald) breaks out and

ALTER EGOS

SEINFELD HAS FREQUENTLY INTEGRATED ITS versions of real-life luminaries into its cast: Calvin Klein, John F. Kennedy Jr., Fidel Castro, the Soup Nazi, and, most notoriously, Yankee owner George Steinbrenner and catalog tycoon J. Peterman. The latter two spoke about their on-screen doppelgängers (see also page 47). —KB

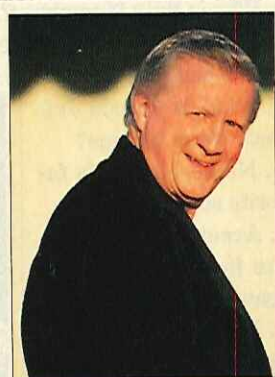
GEORGE STEINBRENNER

WERE YOU ASKED IF YOUR NAME COULD BE USED? Jerry Seinfeld personally called and asked. I don't really mind [the way I'm portrayed]. If you can't laugh at yourself, then you're not much of a person. It also pleases my grandchildren.

IS IT AN ACCURATE PORTRAYAL? If I'm so funny, how come more of my people at the Yankees don't laugh?

LAST YEAR YOU AGREED TO APPEAR IN THE SEASON FINALE. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE? When Julia Louis-Dreyfus came up and told me how exciting it was to be doing an episode with me, that made me feel 20 years younger—until she said that I had been a classmate of her father's at Culver Military Academy. Well, sure as hell I was, and I remember him well!

WERE YOU ANGRY WHEN YOUR SCENE WAS ULTIMATELY CUT? I guess I don't have much talent. When they said they were going to have George Costanza's fiancée die after licking the glue from wedding envelopes, I didn't have much interest in the episode anyway. I felt it was sick.



THE BOSSES

SEINFELD'S STEINBRENNER (BOTTOM) IS HEARD (VOICE: LARRY DAVID) MORE THAN SEEN (BODY: LEE BEAR)

EPISODE 139

THE COMEBACK

FIRST AIRED 1/30/97 WRITERS Kavet/Robin DIR. Trainor **SYNOPSIS** George is insulted during a Yankees lunch meeting and becomes obsessed with delivering his (he thinks) brilliant "jerk store" retort. Abysmal tennis player and pro-shop manager Milos (Mark Harelik) recruits Jerry to help >>

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SEINFELD...

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HIGHLIGHT some of the more obscure moments and conversational tidbits in the hit sitcom. If you can correctly answer more than 10, not only do you know the show, you may want to consider getting a life.

1. If George were abducted by aliens, where would he rather end up: in their zoo or their circus?
2. According to Jerry, how many dates qualify for a face-to-face breakup?
3. Who is Billy Mumfrey?
4. How many times have Jerry and Elaine had sex?
5. What is Cousin Jeffrey's claim to fame?
6. Name Kramer's favorite soap opera.
7. According to Jerry, the best feature of a heavy relationship is...
8. What is the significance of *Sic semper tyrannis*?
9. George has a poster of what hair-challenged star in his bathroom?
10. Jerry quotes from what movie as he stands at Susan Ross' grave?
11. Golden Boy is...
12. What childhood

taunt was directed at George regarding Mrs. Costanza?

13. Name the character Kramer played on *Murphy Brown*.
14. What was Jerry's pre-stand-up job?
15. What World War II prime minister is scorned by George and Jerry?
16. What is George's regular Monk's lunch order?
17. According to George, what is the biggest sucker deal in retail?
18. Jerry's custom-blended cereal has

what percentage of bran flakes?

19. Kramer has played backgammon with which famous model?
20. If George were a porn star, what would he call himself?
21. Kramer rarely says yes, he says...
22. Jerry has had two phone numbers—what are they?
23. George refers to Seattle as...
24. According to Jerry, what's the biggest step in a male friendship?
25. In the first pilot

meeting with NBC, what is the name of the Off Off Broadway play George claims to have written?

26. What are Jerry's telltale signs that a man is in love?
27. A sign for what railroad hangs over Kramer's bed?
28. Kramer compared Jerry and Elaine's romantic relationship to that of which President and his wife?
29. Boys give each other atomic wedgies. How, according to

Elaine, do girls torment each other?

30. Who has Newman booked to play at his millennium party?
31. George's parents' address is...
32. Who regularly eats at Reggies?
33. Elaine thinks what percentage of people are good-looking?
34. Name Jerry's shampoo of choice.
35. What was the item of clothing that launched J. Peterman's career?
36. "It's like 10 dates in one shot" is Kramer's definition of what?
37. Define "the swirl."
38. Elaine wanted to see what movie instead of *The English Patient*?
39. What are Jerry's and George's PINs?
40. If George could take just one book to a desert island, what would it be?
41. Define Kavorka.
42. Name Jerry's and George's favorite explorers.



GEORGE AND JERRY PITCH NBC;
JERRY GAVE SUSAN AN APT EULOGY

ANSWERS

1. The zoo: "I could set more of my own schedule" (episode 129) 2. Seven (28) 3. "A cockeyed optimist who got caught up in the dirty game of world diplomacy and international intrigue"—and the main character in a manuscript Elaine evaluates for Viking (100) 4. Jerry says 25; Elaine says 37 (14) 5. According to Uncle Leo, Jeffrey organized the New York City Parks Department's edible-foliage tour (7) 6. *The Bold and the Beautiful* (3, 48) 7. Make-up sex—topped only by conjugal-visit sex (106) 8. The Latin phrase—meaning "Thus always to tyrants"—was yelled by John Wilkes Booth as he assassinated Lincoln; adopted by Crazy Joe Davola when he jumped Jerry (61) 9. *NYPD Blue*'s Dennis Franz (129) 10. *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*: "She's not really dead if we find

a way to remember her" (127) 11. The first T-shirt Jerry wears out of the laundry, until it "dies" (75) 12. "Your mother's uglier than Hazel," referring to the TV show starring Shirley Booth (30) 13. Steven Snell (39) 14. He sold umbrellas on the street and claims to have invented "the twirl" (133) 15. Britain's Neville Chamberlain: "You could hold his head in the toilet [and] he'd still give you half of Europe" (42) 16. Tuna on toast with coleslaw and coffee (82) 17. Duty-free shops (50) 18. 25%—40% was too much for him (38) 19. Elle Macpherson, in the Cayman Islands, in the nude (32) 20. Buck Naked (49) 21. "Giddy-up!" 22. KL5-8383 (34) and KL5-2390 (84) 23. "The pesto of cities," due to its sudden trendiness (17) 24. Helping a guy move; "it's like going all the way" (34) 25. *La Cocina* (42) 26. "When she comes home, are you cleaning up a lot? D'ya do the tub...on your knees—Ajax, hands scrubbing, the whole

deal?... Tub is love." (62) 27. Jungfrau 28. The tempestuous union of Abe Lincoln and Mary Todd (37) 29. "We just tease someone until they get an eating disorder" (22) 30. Christopher Cross (146) 31. 1344 Queens Boulevard, Flushing, N.Y. (71) 32. Kevin, Gene, and Feldman, Elaine's Bizarro friends (129) 33. 25%; Jerry thinks only 4-6%—the rest are "undatable!" (108) 34. Prell (74) 35. The Pygmy Pullover, for "the naked natives of the Bantu Besh" (124) 36. Attending a funeral of a girlfriend's loved one (57) 37. A capper to "the move," Jerry's surefire sexual technique, performed "clockwise, but it's not written in stone" (101) 38. *Sack Lunch*, starring Dabney Coleman (143) 39. Jerry's is Jor-El, Superman's father; George's is Bosco (111) 40. *The Three Musketeers* (145) 41. The lure of the animal—and what, according to a Latvian priest, female-magnet Kramer is cursed with (72) 42. Magellan and De Soto (34)

him save face. Elaine begins a phone affair with mysterious video-store cineaste Vincent. Kramer drafts a living will. **CRITIQUE** George has a vindictive field day. And once again the show milks ethnicity for laughs, this time with pompous yet inept Eastern Bloc émigré Milos. **B**

EPISODE 140

THE VAN BUREN BOYS

FIRST AIRED 2/6/97 **WRITER** Darin Henry **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Jerry dates Ellen (Christine Taylor), a "fantastic" woman who nevertheless appears to have no friends. (George to Jerry: "Every group has [its loser]—like us, with Elaine.") George selects a kindred spirit as the first Susan Ross Foundation scholar—underachieving liar Steven Koren (Jed Rhein). Peterman co-opts Kramer's life stories for his autobiography. **CRITIQUE** George's sponsorship of his deceitful protégé is abandoned too soon (in favor of the dopey Van Buren Boys angle), as is the Ellen-as-social-pariah concept. And Kramer's "ripping yarns" should have been hysterical; instead, he's reduced to slipping on golf balls. **C+**

EPISODE 141

THE SUSIE

FIRST AIRED 2/13/97 **WRITER** Mandel **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** More identity games, as Elaine is mistaken for a nonexistent coworker named Susie; Kramer becomes George's girlfriend by proxy; bookie Mike Moffet (38) believes Jerry is a hitman. **CRITIQUE** "Susie" is possibly the most ill-conceived premise yet. Two things save this from D-dom: Kramer and George's romantic rapport and the latter's infamous *Greatest American Hero* answering-machine message. **C+**

EPISODE 142

THE POTHOLE

FIRST AIRED 2/20/97 **WRITERS** O'Donnell/Dan O'Keefe **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Obsessions run amok: Fastidious Jerry can't kiss his girlfriend (*Melrose Place*'s Kristin Davis) after her toothbrush falls in the toilet; Elaine's hankering for a Chinese flounder dish has her assuming an address within the restaurant's delivery zone; and Kramer takes the adopt-a-highway concept a bit too literally. **HISTORIC MOMENT** The highway scenes, pothole explosion, and the toilet's-eye camera shot, add up to, according to Seinfeld, the most technically ambitious sitcom episode in TV history. **CRITIQUE** Physical high jinks dominate. We, however, are sorely missing the witty erudition that is, after all, the show's claim to fame. **C+**

EPISODE 143

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

FIRST AIRED 3/13/97 **WRITER** Koren **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Elaine's *English Patient* antipathy turns the world against her. A trip to Florida finds Jerry mired in one-upmanship with

the Mandelbaum clan, headed by Izzy (Lloyd Bridges), and transporting Cubans (literally) back to Kramer. George meets a foxy blond and becomes obsessed with her boyfriend—his supposed twin. **CRITIQUE** The one pure travesty—unbearably simplistic and broad (especially that Mandelbaum crap)—of this season made us feel as burned as the episode's eponymous protagonist. **D-**

EPISODE 144

THE NAP

FIRST AIRED 4/10/97 **WRITERS** Kavet/Robin **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** A sleep-deprived George engages Jerry's conscientious carpenter, Conrad (Stephen Lee), to construct a mini-bedroom beneath his office desk. Kramer unwittingly initiates a lap-swimming craze—in the East River. **CRITIQUE** A good start (George as workplace snoozer) quickly devolves into a lame terrorist farce. Remember what we said about Newman in 131? That goes double for Steinbrenner. **C+**

EPISODE 145

THE YADA YADA

FIRST AIRED 4/24/97 **WRITERS** Mehlman/Jill Franklyn **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Conversation fudger "Yada, yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy (Suzanne Cryer). Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth (125)—now married to Arnie (Stephen Caffrey)—she sinks to a new low redeeming herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates. **CRITIQUE** Bad news: A feckless Kramer/Mickey sideshow gets no help from gratuitous Robert Wagner and Jill St. John cameos. And are we *actually* to believe that Elaine has stooped to quid pro quo sex with the adoption counselor? Good news: Tim's conversion and Jerry's "antidote" outrage against it (containing the show's only outright acknowledgment of its ethnicity—Jerry's anyway) are brilliantly handled and a welcome return to the verbal virtuosity we love. As for Jerry in the confessional—a blessed event! **B+**

EPISODE 146

THE MILLENNIUM

FIRST AIRED 5/1/97 **WRITER** Crittenden **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** The Mets will hire George, but only if he gets himself fired; alas, each of his purposeful fiascos (including streaking across Yankee Stadium—in a bodysuit) only makes him more of a hero to Steinbrenner. Competing plans for a 1999 New Year's Eve party force Kramer to choose between Jerry and Newman. Elaine tries to drive Putumayo out of business. **CRITIQUE** Though Jerry gets stuck with a silly speed-dialing subplot, we never tire of watching George fail—this time upward. **B-**

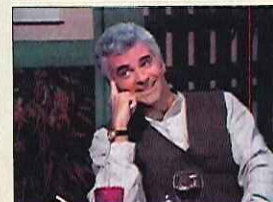
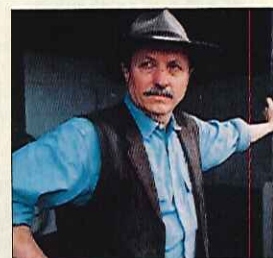
ALTER EGOS

J. PETERMAN

HOW INVOLVED WERE YOU IN BECOMING PART OF THE SHOW? I found out [I was on *Seinfeld*] by watching it. But then they contacted me soon after. I think [the first Peterman episode] ran about the same time as the Soup Nazi, and apparently he got a little bent because of it. But I said, "Fine, have a good time." Some people think because they make fun of me, it's not so great. I say [Seinfeld] isn't making fun of me, he's making fun of the character.

IS IT AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF THE PETERMAN WORKPLACE? No—we do have fun, but it's not quite that funny. The show asked for some props from our offices [actually based in Lexington, Ky.], and we've sent them some pictures. So stuff that hangs in their offices is real.

HOW HAS IT HELPED OR HURT YOU? Our name recognition has gone up substantially. Now it's up to us to take advantage of it. **WOULD YOU HIRE ELAINE?** Probably not.



CLOTHESHORSES

PETERMAN (TOP) IS NOT NEARLY AS VERBOSE AS HIS SEINFELD COHORT

EPISODE 147

THE MUFFIN TOPS

FIRST AIRED 5/8/97 **WRITER** Feresten **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Mistaken for an out-of-towner by Mary Anne (Rena Sofer), an attractive New York Visitor's Center employee, George avidly assumes the role. Lippman returns, co-opting Elaine's brainstorm: A store selling muffins, sans stumps. Kramer creates the Peterman Reality Bus Tour in response to the autobiography filled with the K-man's life stories (140). Jerry shaves his chest. **HISTORIC MOMENTS** George is traded by Steinbrenner to Tyler Chicken in Arkansas. Kramer's reality tour is based on an actual NYC jaunt hosted by the real-life Kramer. **CRITIQUE** The top of this muffin is deliciously moist and tasty. Midway through, however, it suddenly goes stale, crumbling into howling inanity. Nothing will prepare you for that moonlit bus drive—to the dump, indeed. **A** for the first half. **F** for the second.

EPISODE 148

THE SUMMER OF GEORGE

FIRST AIRED 5/15/97 **WRITERS** Berg/Schaffer **DIR.** Ackerman **SYNOPSIS** Kramer

inadvertently receives a Tony for the musical *Scarsdale Surprise*, then is asked to fire their "train wreck" of a star, Raquel Welch (playing herself). Now-unemployed George offers to be Jerry's summer intern, helping him attend to the needs of Lanette (Amanda Peet), a particularly high-maintenance girlfriend. Elaine is pegged a catty shrew, then stalked, by coworker Sam (*Saturday Night Live*'s Molly Shannon), she of the simian walk. The season concludes with a (rather lazy) harkening back to last year's finale: George gets his comeuppance when an invitation-related accident lands him in the hospital. **CRITIQUE** All kinds of, um, wacky stuff goes on in this, er, really convoluted.... Hey, you try writing 20,691 words about nothing! **B-**

YADA YADA

EDITED BY MARY KAYE SCHILLING. EPISODE GUIDE REPORTED BY DANET STEFFENS, RESEARCH COORDINATED BY LOUIS VOGEL, ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY CARMELA CHURRU, KRISTI HUELSELING, MARLENE MCCAMPBELL, AND TIM PURTELL.

REVIEWS

A CRITICAL LOOK AT THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT



MIDWAY THROUGH **THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK** (Universal), Steven Spielberg attempts to answer the question, What could be scarier than a Tyrannosaurus rex? The answer: two Tyrannosaurus rexes. They arrive in the night, in the middle of a muddy rainstorm, to rescue the infant that's

The Lost World: Jurassic Park

STARRING
Jeff Goldblum
Julianne Moore
RATED PG-13
134 MINUTES

been stolen from their nest by mercenary hunters. We're on Isla Sorna, a mountainous tropical paradise in Costa Rica, where happy packs of dinosaurs roam the forests in ecological harmony. Our heroes, Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) and his paleontologist girlfriend, Sarah (Julianne Moore), have come to photograph and study the creatures but leave them otherwise undisturbed. They've freed the baby T. rex from captivity and taken it back to their techno-trailer, where they're desperately trying to put a splint on its broken leg. (File that one under "Easier said than done.")

It's then that Mommy and Daddy show up—two giant, scaly reptile heads, complete with epic yellow incisors, peering into the windows on either side of the trailer. This is the first time in the movie we've set eyes on the grandest of all reptiles, and we expect some good old-fashioned primitive mayhem. But the T. rexes, frankly, don't seem all that upset. Rather than, say, making a hungry play for Dr. Malcolm's thigh, they decide,

Lounging Lizards

Those blockbusting dinosaurs are back in Steven Spielberg's 'The Lost World: Jurassic Park,' but despite a higher digital dino-count the magic is missing. **by Owen Gleiberman**

The Seinfeld

Pilot—July 5, 1989 (The show was originally called "The Seinfeld Chronicles")

Good News, Bad News 7/5/89

Jerry meets a woman on the road, yet expectations are confusing for him when she says she'll pop into town. Meanwhile, Jerry tries to read signals George is explaining to him. Where's Elaine?

Season 1 (4 episodes and then the pilot was re-run)

2. The Stakeout 5/31/90 This is the episode that many claim was the first. Elaine's friend gives a birthday party. Jerry attends only to end up flirting with someone there and ultimately Jerry and George stake out her work building to meet her. In the rest of the series, Jerry's father is different Jerry has a sofa bed in this one which he won't have in episode 6.

3. The Robbery 6/7/90 Jerry asks Elaine to house-sit for him. Kramer leaves the door open and the apartment gets robbed. After George finds a great apartment for Jerry, he gets jealous so neither of them take it.

4. Male Unbonding 6/14/90 Jerry makes a guy he has known since he was ten, cry after trying to break up.

Kramer wants to start a make-your-own pie pizza place.

5. The Stock Tip 6/21/90 Upon George convincing Jerry to invest in the stock market, Kramer likes it when Jerry loses money. A Vermont weekend Jerry spends with his girlfriend turns out bad. Elaine gets dumped after her boyfriend's cats make her allergic.

Season 2 (half season with 12 new episodes)

6. The Ex-Girlfriend 1/23/91 George dumps his girlfriend after mustering courage. Then Jerry starts dating her but she dumps Jerry because she dislikes his act. Elaine has it out with a guy who has stopped saying hello to her. Kramer's obsessing over wanting fresh fruit.

7. The Pony Remark 1/30/91 This is a top ten list choice! Jerry insults an elderly relative. A remark about how immigrants shouldn't have ponies results in her death. Then, Jerry feels she haunted him during the softball championship. Kramer is going to put levels in his apartment.

8. The Jacket 2/8/91 Jerry has found a great suede jacket with a



pink and white striped liner. He wears it in a snowstorm to meet Elaine's father and it gets ruined. George can't get out of his head.

9. The Phone Message 2/13/91

George leaves a bad message on a woman's answering machine. George plots to stop her from listening to it. Jerry dates a woman liking the Dockers commercials.

10. The Apartment 4/4/91 Elaine almost moves into the apartment above Jerry. To attract women, George wears a wedding ring. Who's a bigger idiot? Jerry and George argue over this.

11. The Statue 4/11/91 Jerry's

apartment gets cleaned by someone who may or may not have stolen a statue that matched one that George broke when he was a kid. Kramer gets the statue back.

12. The Revenge 4/18/91 George slips his boss a Mickey after he quits his job. Jerry and Kramer put cement in a washing machine when they think the laundry guy took money that Jerry left in his bag.

13. The Heart Attack 4/25/91 George isn't having a heart attack when he thinks he is. He does need his tonsils out so Kramer takes him to see a holistic healer. Elaine dates Dr. Tongue and Jerry

Classic George Lines from Seinfeld:

■ "I'm much more comfortable criticizing people behind their backs."

■ "I drive them to lesbianism, he brings them back."

■ "Divorce is very difficult, especially on the kids. Of course, I'm the result of my parents having stayed together, so you never know."

■ "Was that wrong? Should I not have done that? I tell ya, I gotta plead ignorance on this thing because if anyone had said anything to me at all when I first started here that that sort of thing was frowned upon..."

■ "I just gave up a lifetime of guilt-free sex and free tickets to every major sporting event in Madison Square Garden. So all hail, for I am COSTANZA, LORD... OF THE IDIOTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

■ "My whole life is a lie."

■ "My life is ruined because of the puffy shirt."

■ "Was it a pick... or a scratch?"

■ "I was in the pool! I was in the pool!"

■ "Actually it was in gym class. I was trying to climb the ropes and Jerry was spotting me. I kept slipping and burning my thighs and then finally I slipped and fell on Jerry's head. We've been close ever since."

■ "My name is George. I'm unemployed, I live with my parents."

■ "Do you ever just get down on your knees and just thank God that you know me and have access to my dementia?"

■ "I would like to dip my bald head in oil and rub it all over your body."

■ "The sea was angry that day, my friends. Like an old man trying to send back soup at a deli."

Walk list, Jerry fears she's too good ("You can't have sex with someone you admire!"). Elaine's loyalty to her discontinued birth control method (the Today Sponge) prompts hoarding and a new boyfriend-screening process. Comments: We learn that Jerry relabels his jeans (from a 32" to 31" waist).

4. THE CALZONE

First Aired: 4/25/96

Writer: Berg/Schaffer

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine keeps company with Todd Gack (John D'Aquino), a guy who won't admit they're dating despite the telltale signs. Jerry makes use of the persuasive talents of Nicki (Danette Tays), a "bold and beautiful... Godzilla" men can't say no to. George hooks Steinbrenner on a particular calzone, only to be banished from the pizzeria.

5. THE INVITATIONS

First Aired: 5/16/96

Writer: David

Director: Ackerman

Summary: In the series' most controversial episode, Susan Bidle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding-invitation envelopes—to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal-lovin', wise-crackin', Superman-obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman (Janeane Garofalo), and proposes marriage—to his immediate distress ("I can't be with someone like me—I hate myself!").

6. THE FUSILLI JERRY

First Aired: 4/27/95

Writer: Gross/ Jonathan

Gross/Ron Hauge/Charlie Rubin

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine dates Jerry's grease-monkey pal David Puddy and discovers that he's stolen Jerry's "move" (it requires a headboard). Kramer tries to live up to his "Assman" vanity plates.

7. THE MANGO

First Aired: 9/16/93

Writer: Lawrence H. Levy /

Buck Dancer

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George gets "the tap" from his latest squeeze, Karen, a.k.a. Risotto Girl (Relativity's Lisa Edelstein), undermining his sexual confidence. Jerry learns

that Elaine "faked 'em all" and begs for another shot.

8. THE BUBBLE BOY

First Aired: 10/7/92

Writers: David/ Charles

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Susan invites George, Jerry, and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-hoo salesman (Brian Doyle-Murray) guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless, stogie-puffing Kramer has burned down the cabin.

9. THE CONTEST

First Aired: 11/18/92

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George's mother catches him, you know, with a copy of Glamour magazine, prompting a contest to see who can remain "master of their domain."

10. THE OUTING

First Aired: 2/11/93

Writer: Charles

Director: Cheronos

Summary: A joke perpetrated by Elaine leads a New York University student reporter (Paula Marshall) to assume that (single, thin, neat) Jerry and George are gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

■ Jim Lafay

Associate Editor

1. THE SOUP NAZI

First Aired: 11/2/95

Writer: Spike Feresten

Director: Ackerman

Summary: The excellence of a local soup merchant's (Larry Thomas) product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique-collecting thugs (John Paragon and Yul Vazquez) terrorize Kramer.

2. THE RYE

First Aired: 1/4/96

Writer: Leifer

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Elaine's desire to do "everything" proves disastrous for sponge-worthy sax player John

(Jeff Yagher). The Costanzas meet Susan's stuffy parents and clash over any number of topics—most significantly a "de-gifted" loaf of marble rye. Moonlighting handsome-cab driver Kramer takes the Rosses for an aromatic, Beef-A-Reeno-fueled ride.

3. THE PUFFY SHIRT

First Aired: 9/23/93

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George, reduced to living with his parents, embarks on a hand-modeling career. Kramer's barely audible designer girlfriend, Leslie, has Jerry unwittingly agree to wear a pirate shirt on the Today show.

4. THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

First Aired: 2/10/94

Writers: Ron Hauge/ Charlie Rubin

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Jerry's lying saddles George with another ersatz profession—marine biology—and inadvertently jeopardizes Elaine's professional relationship with testy Russian novelist Yuri Testikov (George Murdock).

5. THE OPPOSITE

First Aired: 5/19/94

Writers: Andy

Cowan/David/Seinfeld

Director: Cheronos

Summary: George's epiphany—that his whole life is the opposite of what he'd intended—inspires him to act entirely against his instincts. The result: Victoria, a babelicious girlfriend (Cybill's Dedee Pfeiffer), a front-office job for the Yankees, and an apartment. Meanwhile, Elaine loses everything—in effect becoming George. Kramer promotes his coffee-table book on Regis & Kathie Lee.

6. THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

First Aired: 12/9/93

Writers: Gammill/ Pross

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Jerry walks a politically incorrect minefield as he pursues Native American Winona (Kimberly Norris). Elaine is stalked by a geek (Sam Lloyd). George is grounded for having sex in his parents' bed. Kramer

brainstorms a coffee-table book—about coffee tables.

7. THE PICK

First Aired: 12/16/92

Writers: David / Marc Jaffe

Director: Cheronos

Summary: Nose picking and nipple baring are Jerry and Elaine's scarlet letters in an episode that also finds Kramer confronting designer Calvin Klein (Nicholas Hormann) over aromatic plagiarism and George getting Susan back—to his dismay.

8. THE ABSTINENCE

First Aired: 11/21/96

Writer: Steve Koren

Director: Ackerman

Summary: George's forced celibacy turns him into a Phenomenon-style brainiac. Elaine dates a doofus almost-doctor, Ben (Bob Odenkirk), and tries the no-sex route, with brain-draining results. Kramer's at-home smoking lounge ends in a tobacco-company lawsuit.

9. THE PEZ DISPENSER

First Aired: 1/15/92

Writer: David

Director: Cheronos

Summary: In order to obtain "hand" (as in the upper hand) in his relationship with a humorless concert pianist, George plans a "preemptive breakup." Jerry reluctantly participates in a friend's drug intervention. Kramer dreams up a cologne that smells like the beach.

10. THE BOYFRIEND

First Aired: 2/12/92

Writers: David/Larry Levin

Director: Cheronos

Summary: In the series' first hour-long edition, a chance locker-room meeting pulls Jerry into a friendship-cum-romance with New York Met Keith Hernandez (playing himself); when Elaine starts dating him, Jerry's not sure whom he's jealous of. Kramer and Newman have their own connection to the Game 6 legend—a fateful 1987 "assassination" incident outside Shea Stadium. Meanwhile, George "the chucker" is in full fraudulent swing as he tries to extend his unemployment benefits. ■

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- For having man hands.
- For having bad taste in commercials.
- For laughing too strangely.
- For not laughing at all.



Our 3 Editors' TOP 10 EPISODES of Seinfeld

Clearly, this was no easy task. Selecting ten of the best Seinfeld episodes proved to be one of the most challenging exercises our editors have ever accomplished. Just when we thought we had each finalized our top ten lists, someone would say, "What about the episode where...?"

Everybody had their favorites, and some of the greatest lines appeared in episodes that didn't even make this list. But in the end, we tried to judge each episode in its totality, not just based on some classic lines. Ultimately, we came up with three top ten lists we could live with:

■ Bradley Sean Editor-in-Chief

1. THE SOUP NAZI

First Aired: 11/2/95

Writer: Spike Feresten

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: The excellence of a local soup merchant's product is exceeded only by his rigid guidelines for customer behavior. Jerry's incessant baby talk with a new chick drives a wedge between him and George. Antique collecting thugs terrorize Kramer.

2. THE BUBBLE BOY

First Aired: 10/07/92

Writer: Larry David

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Susan invites George, Jerry and Elaine up to her parents' cabin in "pie country." A Yoo-Hoo salesman guilt-trips Jerry into visiting his hermetically cocooned son on the way. When all is said and done, an enraged George has burst the bubble and a careless stogie puffing Kramer has burnt down the cabin.

3. THE YADA YADA

First Aired: 4/24/97

Writers: Peter Mehlman / Jill Franklyn

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: Conversation fudger "Yada yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy. Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth—now married to Arnie—she sinks

to a new low to redeem herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates.

4. THE PONY REMARK

First Aired: 1/30/91

Writers: Larry David/Jerry Seinfeld

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: At his elderly cousin Many's 50th anniversary party, Jerry makes a disparaging remark about people who had ponies as kids. When Many, a former pony owner, takes offense, and proceeds to drop dead, Jerry is racked with guilt.

5. THE CHICKEN ROASTER

First Aired: 11/14/96

Writer: Bergi Schaffer

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: Kramer's Newman-abetted Kenny Rogers' Roasters addiction overcomes his initial boycotting of the chain. Elaine's expense account abuse takes her to Burma in search of Peterman and sends George on a misguided pursuit of a hat saleswoman.

6. THE PIE

First Aired: 2/17/94

Writers: Gammill/Pross

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Jerry is plagued by issues of sharing (a girl refuses a taste of pie) and hygiene (resterateur/chef Poppie doesn't wash his hands after a stall visit). Elaine is incensed by a lookalike store mannequin.

7. THE INVITATIONS

First Aired: 5/16/96

Writer: Larry David

Director: Andy Ackerman

Summary: In the series' most controversial episode, Susan Biddle Ross dies from licking cheap wedding invitation envelopes, to George's extreme relief. Jerry meets his cereal loving, wise-cracking, Superman obsessed counterpart, Jeannie Steinman, and proposes marriage, to his immediate distress.

8. THE PILOT

First Aired: 5/20/93

Writer: Larry David

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Revolving around the casting (most notably Ellen's Jeremy Piven as George), taping and airing of the NBC pilot are Dalrymple's obsession with an uninterested Elaine, Kramer's constipation and George's cancer scare.

9. THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Aired: 5/23/91

Writers: Larry David/Jerry Seinfeld

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: On route to a Plan Nine From Outer Space screening, Jerry, George and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese restaurant.

10. THE IMPLANTS

First Aired: 2/25/93

Writers: Peter Mehlman

Director: Tom Cherones

Summary: Much mammarian speculation surrounds Jerry's current object of desire, Sidra (Lois & Clark's Terry Hatcher). George tries to use a funeral to

make headway with new girlfriend Betsy. Kramer swears he sees Salman Rushdie at a gym.

■ Calli Mason Associate Editor

1. THE BIZARRO JERRY

First Aired: 10/3/96

Writer: Mandel

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Jerry's whole system breaks down as George becomes a model magnet, Kramer becomes a nine-to-five suit, and Elaine takes up with a trio of new buds (Kevin, Gene, and Feldman), the sensitive, cerebral opposites of her current klatch. If that isn't enough, Jerry's dating Gillian (Kristin Bauer), a man-handed woman.

2. THE YADA YADA

First Aired: 4/24/97

Writers: Mehlman/ Jill Franklyn

Director: Ackerman

Summary: Conversation fudger "Yada, yada" infects the group thanks to George's succinct, shoplifting girlfriend Marcy (Suzanne Cryer). Jerry suspects that dentist Tim has converted to Judaism purely for the jokes. After Elaine screws up an adoption opportunity for Beth (125)—now married to Arnie (Stephen Caffrey)—she sinks to a new low redeeming herself. Kramer and Mickey squabble over double dates.

3. THE SPONGE

First Aired: 12/7/95

Writer: Mehlman

Director: Ackerman

Summary: After getting a woman's number off an AIDS

Chronicles

can't figure out what he wrote in his sleep (Flaming globes of Sig-mund). Jerry and George get hurt after ambulance drivers fight over a missing Chuckle.

14. The Deal 5/2/91 Jerry and Elaine establish a set of rules for This and That. Jerry gives Elaine cash as her birthday gift.

15. The Baby Shower 5/16/91 While he is getting an illegal cable hookup, Elaine holds a baby shower in Jerry's apt. George plans to confront a woman who embarrassed him on their only date but Jerry ends up being confronted by a woman who he said he'd call but never did.

16. The Chinese Restaurant 5/23/91 This is classic Seinfeld. George, Jerry, and Elaine wait for a table in a Chinese Restaurant and end up missing Plan 9 From Outer Space.

17. The Busboy 6/26/91 Accidentally, George saves a busboy's life who he got fired. Elaine's unwanted house guest won't leave.

Season 3 (The first full season - 23 episodes including the first one-hour show)

18. The Note 9/18/91 To have their insurance pay for massages, George, Jerry, and Elaine get notes from a dentist friend. Jerry scares his masseuse by talking about a kidnapped kid. George thinks IT moved when he got his massage. Kramer says he saw Joe DiMaggio at Dinky Donuts.

19. The Truth 9/25/91 Jerry is getting audited. George's girlfriend is an ex-IRS agent so Jerry gives her his records. George then dumps her and she forces him to tell her the truth about why. Checking into a mental hospital, she throws away Jerry's records. Elaine's roommate and Kramer are dating. He sees Elaine naked.

20. The Pen 10/2/91 Being on a bad sofa bed ends up with Jerry and Elaine having a poor nights sleep while visiting Jerry's parents in Florida. An astronaut pen causes a stir. Jerry accepts from Jack Kompluss. Morty retires from President of the Condo Association.

21. The Dog 10/9/91 Jerry gets stuck taking care of a dog owned by some drunk he met on an airplane. Jerry, George, and Elaine plan on going to see a movie but when Jerry can't go, George and Elaine find it uncomfortable to spend time alone. Kramer tries to break up with his girlfriend.

22. The Library 10/16/91 A library policeman hounds Jerry. He is supposed to return "Tropic of Capricorn" - overdue since 1971. Jerry calls on his girlfriend at the time to prove that he did return the book but ends up remembering that he had given the book to George. George runs into the gym teacher that caused him to lose the book by giving him a wedgie. Kramer entices the spinster librarian.

23. The Parking Garage 10/30/91 This episode involves the gang



spending all their time looking for Kramer's car in a mall parking garage. Urinating, George and Jerry get arrested. Elaine's fish die while Kramer has to lug around an air conditioner.

24. The Cafe 11/6/91 Baboo, an immigrant restaurant owner, makes friends with Jerry. This guy never has any customers. Elaine takes an IQ test for George but ends up doing bad. They get caught cheating when they try it a second time.

25. The Tape 11/13/91 While Jerry is performing, he gets an erotic message on his tape recorder. George hears of a Chinese cure for baldness and has Ping order it for him. When George finds out that it was Elaine that left the message he falls in love with her.

26. The Nose Job 11/20/91 George's beautiful date with a huge nose gets a nose job after

Kramer tells her to get one. Only it turns out bad so George breaks up with her. Kramer uses Elaine to get a jacket from his mom's boyfriend. Jerry is dating a hot chick who is totally stupid. His brain plays chess against his penis to see whether she stays.

27. The Stranded 11/27/91 Revenge at the drugstore is the idea when George gets short changed there. A party on Long Island is attended by Jerry and Elaine with George. Only to be stuck there when George takes a woman home. The party host stops by Jerry's apartment to kill some time but Jerry has to leave. George tries to steal and gets arrested. Jerry returns home to find that the host has had a call girl there and then Jerry gets arrested for solicitation.

28. The Alternate Side 12/4/91 Jerry's car gets stolen and he has



trouble getting a rental. George takes over parking cars for the tenants but can't handle it. Kramer gets to be in a Woody Allen movie. Elaine dates an older man who has a stroke just before she can dump him.

29. The Red Dot 12/11/91 Elaine gets George a job so he buys her a cashmere sweater with a slight flaw. Jerry accidentally gives Elaine's boyfriend a drink not knowing he is an alcoholic. George has sex with the cleaning lady and gives her the sweater to shut her up.

30. The Subway 1/8/92 Everyone has an adventure on the subway. Elaine gets stuck and misses a lesbian wedding. Kramer gets a tip on a horse and then almost gets robbed of his winnings. George meets a beautiful woman and she robs him at her hotel room. Jerry meets a naked man and goes to Coney Island with him.

31. The Pez Dispenser 1/15/92 Jerry makes Elaine laugh at George's girlfriend's piano recital. George gets "hand" by breaking up with her before she could break up with him. Kramer invents "The Beach." The comedy gang holds an intervention for a friend on drugs.

32. The Suicide 1/29/92 Jerry dates his neighbor's girlfriend when he goes into a coma. George lets Kramer go on his dream vacation because a psychic starts to warn him about something bad. Elaine breaks her fast by eating Newman's Drakes Coffee Cake.

33. The Fix-up 2/5/92 Elaine and Jerry fix up George and a friend by describing their best features. Kramer gives George a condom that ends up being bad and George thinks he gets the girl pregnant.

34. & 35. The New Friend: The Boyfriend (Part 1), Of Mastodons and Men (Part 2) 2/12/92 One hour episode where Jerry befriends Keith Hernandez and acts like they are dating each other. George tells the employment agency that he had an interview at Vandelay Industries. Keith goes out with Elaine but she dumps him when she finds out he smokes. Jerry and Kramer go see the baby. Jerry breaks it off with Keith when he asks him to help him move.

36. The Limo 2/26/92 Jerry and George takes someone else's limo from the airport and are mistaken for leaders of the Aryan Union.

37. The Good Samaritan 3/4/92 Jerry sees a hit and run accident. He ends up dating the woman he confronts. Kramer has a seizure whenever he hears Mary Hart's voice.

Jerry tries to tell the hit and run victim what happened, only she ends up thinking he did it. Elaine tells of having a fling with a matador. George says "God bless you" to a married woman and ends up sleeping with her.

38. The Letter 3/25/92 Jerry's girlfriend paints "The Kramer" and then plagiarizes a movie in a letter she writes to him. Elaine wears an Orioles baseball cap to the Yankee's game and refuses to take it off.

39. The Parking Space 4/22/92 George fights over a parking space with a friend of Kramer's that thinks Jerry is a phony.

40. The Keys 5/6/92 Jerry takes his own apartment keys back from Kramer. Kramer is using it too much. He then takes his keys and gives them to George. George takes his keys from Elaine to give to Kramer but doesn't give Jerry Elaine's keys. Kramer decides to pursue his acting bug in Los Angeles.

Season 4 (24 episodes including 2 two-parters and 2 hour-long shows)

1. The Trip (Part 1) 8/12/92 Jerry is performing on the Tonight Show so he takes George to California with him so they can look for Kramer. George thinks he is real popular when he talks to George Wendt and Corbin Bernsen back stage. Kramer is trying to make it as an actor but ends up the key suspect in a murder.

2. The Trip (Part 2) 8/19/92 George and Jerry try to help Kramer get out of jail and he finally gets released when another murder is committed while he is behind bars. Jerry and George can't talk Kramer into coming back but a couple days later he shows up in New York.

43. & 44. The Pitch / The Ticket 9/16/92 George and Jerry pitch their show about nothing to NBC. George starts dating Susan but then Kramer throws up on her. Kramer trades Newman a radar detector for a motorcycle helmet. The helmet saves his life when he is kicked in the head by Crazy Joe Divola. Newman gets a speeding ticket and

Some tasty Dialogue:

■ We learn that ELAINE needs SEX in order to be SMART, and George needs to AVOID sex in order to be smart.

■ But what does Kramer need in order to be smart?

■ **Kramer:** "Brain food, Jerry."

■ **Jerry:** "What kind of brain food? You mean fish, right?"

■ **Kramer:** "No, Jerry. Fish are dumb. I mean people!"

■ **Jerry:** "You eat... people?"



■ **Kramer:** "Just the smart ones. Wouldn't do me any good to eat the dumb ones, would it?"

■ **Jerry:** "I don't know...."

■ **Kramer:** "Eating a bum, that's dumb, that would be like eating junk food, Jerry."

■ **Jerry:** "How do you eat..."

■ **Kramer:** "People? It depends on who I'm having. If it's a scientist, they're kind of dry, I try to turn them into a stew. Lawyers, on the other hand, leave a bad aftertaste in the mouth, so I have to dilute them with peppers, onions, and the occasional nobel prize winner..."

The Seinfeld Chronicles

makes Kramer his alibi.

45. The Wallet (Part 1) 9/23/92 Morty thinks someone stole his wallet at the doctor's office. Kramer acts as Elaine's boyfriend so that she can dump her boyfriend/shrink. George passes on the pilot.

46. The Watch (Part 2) 9/30/92 George tries to bargain with NBC. Jerry tries to get his watch back from Uncle Leo.

47. The Bubble Boy 10/7/92 Jerry agrees to visit a boy in a bubble on his way upstate with Elaine, George, and Susan. George loses Jerry and ends up getting in a fight with the bubble boy. Kramer burns down Susan's father's cabin. Jerry and George describe the pies.

48. The Cheever Letters 10/28/92 Susan's dad is found to be gay when letters are discovered at the burned cabin. Kramer tries to get more cigars from the Cuban Embassy. Jerry hates talking to Elaine's secretary but ends up talking dirty with her. Jerry and George start writing the pilot.

49. The Opera 11/4/92 Elaine is dating Crazy Joe Divola but doesn't find out until she and Jerry are at the opera. Crazy Joe puts the kibosh on Jerry and then dresses up as the sad clown. Kramer and George try to scalp tickets.

50. The Virgin 11/11/92 Elaine upsets Jerry's virgin girlfriend and then causes Ping to wreck. George gets Susan fired when he kisses her before a meeting.

51. The Contest 11/18/92 Jerry, George, Kramer, and Elaine have a contest to see who can hold out the longest. Elaine meets John F. Kennedy, Jr. Jerry loses the virgin when he tells her about the contest and she ends up with JFK. Kramer ends up with the naked neighbor.

52. The Airport 11/25/92 Jerry flies first class while Elaine flies coach. George and Kramer wait for them at the airport. George upsets a notorious criminal and gets stuck on a flight when trying to scam free tickets. Jerry meets a Calvin Klein model.

53. The Pick 12/16/92 Jerry is accused of picking his nose by the Calvin Klein model. Elaine sends out Christmas cards showing her nipple. Calvin Klein comes out with a new cologne called "The Ocean" stealing Kramer's idea (see episode 31) but then Kramer does an underwear ad for them.

54. The Movie 1/6/93 Jerry tries to juggle a couple of performances and

going to the movies. Elaine, Kramer, and George wait at the theater.

55. The Visa 1/27/93 George is dating the lawyer who is handling Ping's case against Elaine. Jerry tries not to be funny so that George will have a better shot with the lawyer but she ends up being attracted to Jerry because he is dark and mysterious. Baboo is deported when his visa renewal is placed in Jerry's mailbox and Elaine doesn't give Jerry his mail for a long while. Kramer punches Micky Mantle at fantasy camp.

56. The Shoes 2/4/93 Kramer snubs an old girlfriend of Jerry's and then ends up kissing her. George is caught looking at cleavage. Elaine gives up her shoes to help Jerry get the pilot back and then shows her "ketchup secret" to the president of NBC.

57. The Outing 2/11/93 George and Jerry are thought to be gay, not that there is anything wrong with that!

8. The Old Man 2/18/93 George, Jerry, and Elaine volunteer to help senior citizens. Kramer and Newman try to make money selling used records.

59. The Implant 2/25/93 Elaine tells Jerry that the woman he is dating has implants so he dumps her. When she finds out that they are real Jerry gets back with her but then gets dumped. George goes to a funeral with his girlfriend and tries to get a half priced fare. George double dips!

60. The Junior Mint 3/18/93 Jerry doesn't know the name of the woman he is dating except that it rhymes with a female body part. Elaine goes to see an old boyfriend who is about to have surgery. Kramer and Jerry go to witness the surgery and end up dropping a Jr. Mint inside of him that miraculously saves him. George buys some of his art because he thinks he is going to die.

61. The Smelly Car 4/15/93 A valet leaves a terrible BO in Jerry's car. George finds out that Susan has become a lesbian and then Kramer steals her girlfriend.

62. The Handicap Spot 5/13/93 There are two versions of this one!!! Kramer advises George to park in a handicap spot while buying an engagement present for "The Drake." A disabled woman has an accident and an angry mob destroys George's father's car. Kramer falls in love with the disabled woman. George becomes his dad's butler.

63. & 64. The Pilot 5/20/93 Audi-

Classic Kramer Lines from Seinfeld:

- "These pretzels are making me thirsty!"
- "I'm out of the contest."
- "I'm a hipster doofus."
- "Who would refuse a Junior Mint?"
- "I'm Cosmo Kramer, the Assman!"
- "I have the body of a taut pre-teen Swedish boy."
- "I can't be with someone whose whole life is in shambles."
- "Cause I'm like ice, buddy. When I don't like you, you got problems."



tions are held for the pilot of Jerry's sitcom. Kramer gets constipated. George thinks he has cancer because of a slight discoloration on his lip. Elaine accuses the owner of Monk's of only hiring large breasted women. "Jerry" is premiered and then canceled when Russell joins Green Peace.

Season 5 (22 episodes with one one-hour show)

65. The Mango 9/16/93 Jerry learns that Elaine faked her orgasms and wants one more shot. George experiences impotence. Kramer gets banned from the fruit store and has Jerry try to buy his fruit for him. George is cured when he eats some mango.

66. The Puffy Shirt 9/23/93 Kramer is dating a low-talker and Jerry agrees to wear the pirate shirts she made on the Today show because he couldn't hear what she was asking him. George moves in with his parents but then is discovered as a hand model.

67. The Glasses 9/30/93 George thinks his glasses were stolen and he ends up buying women's frames. George tells Jerry he saw his girlfriend kissing his cousin Jeffery. Elaine is bit by a rabid dog. Kramer gets George a discount on his glasses because he got the optometrist off sugar.

68. The Sniffing Accountant 10/7/93 Jerry thinks his accountant is doing drugs. George interviews to be a bra salesman. Elaine breaks up with Jake Jarmel because he didn't use an exclamation point in a message he left.

69. The Bris 10/14/93 Elaine and Jerry are chosen as godparents, and help with the bris. George's car gets damaged by someone committing suicide. Kramer tries to save the pigman he finds in the hospital.

70. The Lip Reader 10/28/93 Kramer becomes a ball boy for the U.S. Open. Jerry dates a deaf lineswoman and George uses her to read the lips of the woman who just dumped him. Elaine says she is deaf to avoid talking to a chauffeur.

71. The Non-Fat Yogurt 11/4/93 Jerry and Elaine have non-fat yogurt tested. Jerry swears in front of a little boy and then apologizes but swears again. George is caught nudging someone to avoid talking to a childhood friend that is now the mayor's assistant. He claims to have arm spasms.

72. The Barber 11/11/93 Jerry gets a bad haircut and then goes behind his barber's back to try to get it

fixed. George gets a job, of course.

73. The Masseuse 11/18/93 Jerry dates a masseuse who won't give him a massage and hates George. Elaine dates Joel Rifkin and tries to get him to change his name.

74. The Cigar-Store Indian 12/9/93 Jerry offends a native American Indian friend of Elaine's with his gift. Elaine takes Frank's TV Guide and meets a strange person on the subway. George has to get his parents coffee table fixed and Kramer gets the idea for a coffee table book about coffee tables.

75. The Conversion 12/16/93 George converts to Latvian Orthodox for his girlfriend but then she moves away. Jerry thinks his girlfriend has fungus. Kramer has the Kavorka.

76. The Stall 1/6/94 Jerry's girlfriend can't spare a square of toilet paper to Elaine. Elaine is dating a mimbo and George falls in love with him. Kramer uses Jerry's phone to call for phone sex and it turns out to be Jerry's girlfriend.

77. The Dinner Party 2/3/94 The whole gang is heading to a dinner party and they need something to bring. Jerry and Elaine have trouble getting a Chocolate Bobka. George has a new gortex coat that causes him to break some bottles of wine.

78. The Marine Biologist 2/10/94 A definite top ten! A woman Jerry and George know from college asks about George so Jerry tells her that he is a marine biologist. A Russian writer throws Elaine's electronic organizer out the car window and hits a woman in the head. Golden Boy is Jerry's favorite shirt but it doesn't make it through the wash. Kramer hits golf balls at the beach.

79. The Pie 2/17/94 Jerry's date won't taste his apple pie. Then Jerry won't taste the pizza her father made because he didn't wash his hands. Elaine resembles a mannequin at a store where George is trying to get a suit half price. (mannequin made by strange guy in #74)

80. The Stand-In 2/24/94 Kramer's midget friend Mickey gets caught using lifts to keep his job as a stand in. George is accused of not committing. Elaine dates a friend of Jerry's who took IT out.

81. The Wife 3/17/94 Jerry pretends to be married to share a discount he receives at the dry cleaners. George gets spotted peeing in the shower by a guy who gives Elaine mixed signals. Kramer doesn't look good because his quilt is still at the cleaners so he

Some Classic Jerry Lines:

- "Hello Newman!"
- "The mohel circumcized my finger!"
- "It's a game of world domination played by two people who can't run their own lives."
- "Why are fish so thin? They only eat fish."
- "I can't go to a bad movie by myself. What, am I gonna make sarcastic remarks to strangers?"
- "I'm going to hire you as my latex salesman? I don't think so."
- "There had to be a second spitter!"
- "The woman had an orgasm under false pretenses. That's sexual perjury!"
- "She had man hands!"
- "I'm dating a virgin, I'm in a contest, something's gotta give!"

goes to a tanning bed before he meets his girlfriend's parents.

82. & 83. The Raincoats 4/28/94 George is asked to be a big brother. Elaine is dating a close talker that is obsessed with helping Jerry's parents. Kramer and Morty try to sell raincoats to the used clothing store. Jerry makes out during Schindler's List.

84. The Fire 5/5/94 George acts like a coward in front of his girlfriend. Jerry is heckled by a woman Elaine works with so he goes to her office and heckles her. She gets upset and runs in front of a street sweeper that severs her pinkie toe. Kramer drives the bus to save the toe.

85. The Hamptons 5/12/94 George's girlfriend is seen topless by everyone but him. George is seen naked after being in the pool and tries to explain about shrinkage. Kramer gets caught stealing lobsters. Elaine is interested in a doctor that refers to everything as "breath taking."

86. The Opposite 5/19/94 A definite top ten. George tries to do the opposite of his instincts. Elaine loses everything because of Jujufruits. Jerry is even Steven. Kramer gets his coffee table book published.

Season 6 (24 episodes include a 1 hour highlights show)

87. The Chaperone 9/22/94 Jerry dates Miss Rhode Island while Kramer tries to help her in the pageant. George suggests cotton uniforms for the Yankees. Elaine is told she has no grace but then gets a job with Mr. Pitt.

88. The Big Salad 9/29/94 Jerry is dating a woman that Newman dumped. George buys Elaine a big salad and then gets upset when his girlfriend takes credit for it. Gednison cheats at golf and then kills the drycleaner.

89. The Pledge Drive 10/6/94 Elaine's friend Noreen dates a high talker and Jerry thinks she hit on him. Jerry cashes some old checks that his grandma had sent him. Everyone starts eating their Snickers with a fork. Jerry volunteers to host a pledge drive for PBS and George gets Danny Tartabull to be on it.

90. The Chinese Woman 10/13/94 Jerry dates a woman that he thought was Chinese. Noreen is now dating a long talker. Kramer has to give up his briefs because his sperm count is low. George's parents are getting divorced.

91. The Couch 10/27/94 Jerry gets a new couch which Poppy pees on. Elaine dates the delivery man until she finds out he's not Pro Choice. George tries to watch the movie of the book he is supposed to be reading for his girlfriend's book club.

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92. The Gymnast 11/3/94

George gets three strikes against him in his latest relationship. Jerry wants to have sex with a woman because she is a gymnast. She wants to have sex with him because he is a comedian. Kramer passes a kidney stone. Mr. Pitt is entranced by 3-D art and sends Elaine to a meeting for him.

93. The Soup 11/10/94 Jerry gets a free suit but has to take the guy out to dinner. George dates a waitress who becomes disinterested. Elaine meets someone in England who comes over and mooches off her.

94. The Mom and Pop Store 11/17/94 George buys a car because he thinks Jon Voight once owned it. Jerry crashes a party during Thanksgiving Day parade. Kramer gives all Jerry's shoes to a shoemaker to fix and they go out of business. Mr. Pitt helps with the Woody Woodpecker balloon.

95. The Secretary 12/8/94 George hires a secretary because she is not good looking and then gives her a raise during sex. Jerry spots the drycleaner wearing his clothes. Elaine accuses a store of having skinny mirrors. Kramer sells his clothes.

96. The Race 12/15/94 Kramer gets a job as Santa. Elaine dates a communist and gets black listed. Jerry must defend his speed reputation from high school.

97. The Switch 1/5/95 A definite top ten. Kramer's first name is finally revealed. Elaine lends Mr. Pitt's tennis racket and has trouble getting it back. George thinks his girlfriend is bulimic. Jerry and George try to devise a way for Jerry to pull the roommate switch.

98. The Label Maker 1/19/95 Jerry's superbowl tickets get passed around. George dates a woman who has a male roommate. Kramer and Newman play risk. Elaine investigates a re-gifter.

99. The Scofflaw 1/26/95 A guy Jerry knows fakes that he has cancer to get sympathy. Elaine gets back at Jake Jarmel by buying the same frames as him. George gets a hair piece. Kramer interferes when a cop was just about to catch an illegal parker that has been eluding him for

years (Newman).

100. & 101. Highlights of a Hundred 2/2/95 A one hour special celebrating the first hundred episodes.

102. The Beard 2/9/95 Elaine acts as a girlfriend for a gay friend and then tries to get him to switch teams. George gains confidence because of his hair hat. Jerry dates a policewoman who gets him to admit that he watches Melrose Place.

103. The Kiss Hello 2/16/95 Kramer puts up pictures of everyone in the building and Jerry puts an end to everyone kissing him hello. George is charged for canceling an appointment and then tries to charge the doctor when she cancels.

104. The Doorman 2/23/95 Jerry is bothered by the doorman in Mr. Pitt's building. Kramer gets the idea for a male bra when he sees George's father's hooters.

105. The Jimmy 3/16/95 Jerry and George meet a guy who refers to himself in the first person. Kramer is thought to be mentally handicapped and gets to meet Mel Torme. Jerry thinks he might have been violated at the dentists.

106. The Doodle 4/6/95 Jerry has fleas. A woman George dates draws an unflattering picture of him so he has Elaine find out if she likes him. She does and she doesn't care how he looks. The Seinfelds stay in a fancy hotel suite that was provided for Elaine from the company she is interviewing with.

107. The Fuscilli Jerry 4/27/95 A top ten. Jerry lets Elaine's boyfriend in on his "move" but then gets upset when he uses it. George needs a "move" so he takes notes on Jerry's. Kramer accidentally gets plates that read "ASSMAN." Kramer makes a statue of Jerry out of fuscilli and George's dad sits on it.

108. The Diplomat's Club 5/4/95 Jerry's agent is driving him crazy and causes problems with their return from an out of town show. Elaine almost quits her job but then gets fired when they think she is trying to kill Mr. Pitt. Kramer starts betting again.

109. The Face Painter 5/11/95 George says "I love you" but gets no response. Kramer gets in a



fight with a monkey at the zoo. Elaine is dating a guy who paints his face for hockey games. Jerry gets free hockey tickets but doesn't call to say thanks.

110. The Understudy 5/18/95 Jerry is dating Bette Midler's understudy and always has to comfort her. George runs over Bette in a softball game and Kramer takes care of her. Elaine thinks the manicurists are making fun of her so she takes George's father with her to translate.

Season 7 (24 episodes with 2 one-hour shows)

111. The Engagement 9/21/95 George and Jerry agree to change their lives so George gets engaged to Susan. Elaine wants to get rid of a barking dog so she gets Kramer and Newman to help.

112. The Postponement 9/28/95 George gets Susan to postpone the wedding date. Elaine is jealous of George and confides in a rabbi who lives in her building. He then proceeds to tell everyone. Kramer sneaks Cafe Latte into the theater and spills it all over himself.

113. The Maestro 10/5/95 Kramer sues the coffee shop because the Cafe Latte was too hot. Elaine dates a man who insists on being called the Maestro. George thinks a security guard should be allowed to sit down. Jerry rents a house in Tuscany.

114. The Wink 10/12/95 George gets squirted in the eye by a grapefruit and can't stop winking at all the inappropriate times. Jerry tries not to eat meat while dating Elaine's cousin. Elaine's wake up service goes bad when she starts dating the caller.

115. The Hot Tub 10/19/95 Jerry tries to help Elaine's friend make it to the marathon on time. Kramer gets a hot tub. George acts annoyed so that he looks busy at work. He then meets with some bastards from Texas.

116. The Soup Nazi 11/2/95 Everyone wants soup from a guy with very strict ordering procedures. George and Elaine are bothered by how affectionate Jerry is with his new girlfriend. Elaine buys an armoire, gets it stolen, and then gets one that belonged to the Soup Nazi that contains all his recipes.

117. The Secret Code 11/9/95 George won't tell anyone his ATM code. Jerry's foot keeps falling

asleep and it gets him in trouble with a handicapped store owner. Kramer tries to help the fire department. Elaine is interested in a boring guy just because he forgets her.

118. The Pool Guy 11/16/95 Jerry gets rid of an annoying pool attendant who wants to be his friend. Elaine and Susan go out and George's worlds are colliding. Kramer becomes the movie guide.

119. The Sponge 12/7/95 Elaine has to be picky about her partners when her birth control is in short supply. George has to tell Susan everything. Kramer walks for AIDS but refuses to wear the red ribbon.

120. The Gum 12/14/95 Kramer opens an old movie theater and befriends a childhood friend of George's (see The Non-Fat Yogurt) that had a nervous breakdown. Kramer forces Jerry to help by wearing glasses and buying gum. Elaine tries not to lead the guy on because she feels partly responsible for the breakdown. Another old friend of George's thinks he's mentally ill.

121. The Rye 1/4/96 George tries to replace a rye bread that his father took back from Susan's parents after their dinner. Elaine is dating a musician and word gets back to him that she thinks they are Hot-n-Heavy.

122. The Caddy 1/25/96 George leaves his car at Yankee stadium and his boss thinks he is putting in long hours. Kramer trusts his caddy's every decision. Elaine meets an old friend who never wears a bra so she gets her one for her birthday. The friend then starts wearing just a bra and causes Kramer to wreck.

123. The Seven 2/1/96 George tells Susan he wants to name his kid Seven. Jerry dates a girl who always wears the same dress. Elaine's little girls bike is given to Kramer as payment for fixing her neck. Kramer tabs up the stuff for stuff he takes from Jerry.

124. & 125. The Cadillac 2/8/96 Everyone is surprised at how much money Jerry makes. Jerry buys his father a Cadillac and then Morty gets impeached because they think he has been stealing. George gets fixed up with Marissa Tomei. Kramer keeps the cable man waiting.

126. The Shower Head 2/15/96 Jerry's parents won't go back to Florida because George convinced his parents to move there. Elaine tests positive for Opium

Classic Elaine Lines from Seinfeld:

- "I gotta get some new friends."
- "Movie hot dogs? I'd rather lick the food off the floor."
- "I could drop you like a bag of dirt."
- "Well, I'd watch the third base coach if I were you 'cause I don't think he's waving you in."
- "You think you can pose me however you want? That's my ass in your window!"
- "It's not fair that people are seated first-come, first-serve. It should be based on who's hungriest."
- "The Soup Nazi threw me out!"
- "Kramer, you don't understand. He made the last contact between us. I had the upper hand in the post-breakup relationship!"



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several times because she is eating poppy seeds. Low-Flow shower heads are installed in the building and Jerry and Kramer don't like it.

127. The Doll 2/22/96 Susan has a doll that resembles George's mother. Jerry carries a package home for a friend of Susan's and he breaks his BBQ sauce that he was using for a bit. Frank turns George's room into a pool hall and the Maestro and Kramer play in their underwear. Elaine tries to get an autograph of the third tenor.

128. The Friar's Club 3/7/96 George fixes Jerry up with Susan's best friend but he has to borrow a jacket at the Friar's Club. Jerry forgets to return the jacket and he thinks the Gypsies stole it. Kramer tries to sleep 20 minutes at a time. Elaine thinks a co-worker is pretending to be deaf to get out of work.

129. The Wig Master 4/4/96 Jerry is annoyed because people keep hitting on the person he is with. Elaine and a salesman are working each other. George and Kramer park their cars in a cheap lot and the cars are used by hookers.

130. The Calzone 4/28/96 Jerry is

dating a woman that gets anything she wants. Mr. Steinbrenner gets hooked on calzones when he tries George's and now he doesn't make a move without George. George doesn't get credit for his tip at the calzone shop. Elaine is going out with someone who uses a dating loophole. Kramer will only wear warm clothes.

131. & 132. The Bottle Deposit 5/2/96 Not knowing what it is or how it's to get done, George gets an assignment. Jerry's mechanic steals his car because he is not taking care of it. J. Peterman buys JFK's golf clubs. Unfortunately, Elaine leaves them in the back of Jerry's car. Kramer and Newman use a mail truck to take bottles to Michigan but The Mechanic ends up getting chased by Kramer and Newman.

133. The Wait Out 5/9/96 Jerry and Elaine have been waiting for a marriage to break up so that they can move in. George helps by making a folksy remark. Kramer gets new jeans that he can't get out of. Elaine's driving makes Jerry sick.

134. The Invitations 5/16/96 George tries to figure out ways to get out of getting married. Kramer

calls Susan "Lilly" and now he and Elaine are nothing in the wedding. Jerry gets engaged to someone just like him. Susan dies from licking the wedding invitations.

Season 8 (22 episodes)

135. The Foundation 9/19/96 Susan's parents start a foundation in her honor with George on the board. Jerry studies the perfect breakup story. Kramer learns karate against some unworthy opponents. Elaine gets appointed president of J. Peterman.

136. The Soul Mate 9/26/96 Kramer likes Jerry's girlfriend and goes to Newman for advice. George thinks the foundation suspects him of killing Susan. Elaine doesn't want to have a baby.

137. The Bizarro Jerry 10/3/96 Elaine's new friends are the opposite of the old ones. Jerry dates a girl with big hands. George enters the forbidden city using his breakup story. Kramer starts a job, sort of...

138. The Little Kicks 10/10/96 Elaine's co-workers lose respect for her after she dances at a company party. George is the "bad boy" in order to attract a woman.

Jerry is forced to bootleg movies by a friend of Kramer.

139. The Package 10/17/96 Kramer tries to get Jerry a refund for his broken stereo by mailing it with insurance. Elaine's medical record says she is difficult. George seduces photo shop girl at Kramer's suggestion.

140. The Fatigues 10/31/96 Elaine promotes the mail room psycho instead of firing him. Jerry's girlfriend has a mentor who dates Bania (The Soup). Kramer needs Frank to help him cook for Jewish singles night. George tries books-on-tape to learn risk management.

141. The Checks 11/7/96 Elaine's boyfriend is moved by a song. Jerry gets lots of small royalty checks. George can't get recruited by a cult. Kramer helps out Japanese tourists.

142. The Chicken Roaster 11/14/96 Elaine misuses the Peterman expense account. George leaves things behind in order to get another date. Jerry's college buddy gets fired and starts working at chicken roaster across the street. Kramer switches apartments with Jerry until he gets hooked on chicken.



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143. The Abstinence 11/21/96

George has to stop having sex and he suddenly becomes smart. Elaine is dating someone who is almost a doctor. Jerry gets bumped from career day at his Jr. High and it affects his career. Kramer opens a smokers lounge and starts to age.

144. The Andrea Doria 12/19/96

George tells his life story in order to get an apartment in place of an Andria Doria survivor. Elaine dates a guy who is bad at breaking up. Jerry delivers mail to help get rid of Newman. Kramer goes to a vet to get rid of his cough.

145 The Little Jerry 1/9/97

Jerry bounces a check at the market and everyone finds out. Kramer gets a rooster for fresh eggs and names him Jerry Seinfeld. Elaine dates a man who shaves his head. George dates a prisoner.

146 The Money 1/16/97

Jerry has to re-buy the cadillac for his parents. George finds out his parents are loaded. Kramer needs to get some sleep after sex. Elaine hires Morty to work at J. Peterman.

147 The Comeback 1/30/97

George gets zinged at a meeting and wants to use his comeback. Elaine "connects" with video store employee. Kramer wants a living will. Jerry gets taken by a tennis shop pro.

148. The Van Buren Boys 2/6/97

George interviews people for the foundation scholarship. Mr. Peterman buys Kramer's stories for his autobiography. Jerry dates someone who is socially challenged.

149. The Susie 2/13/97

Elaine has an alter ego at work that is causing problems. George gets dumped through Kramer. Kramer bets with Jerry's money and then thinks Jerry roughed up the bookie (Mike from The Parking Space).

150. The Pothole 2/20/97

George goes to extreme measures to recover his lost key chain. Elaine goes to extreme measures to get Chinese food delivered. Jerry goes to extreme measures to avoid germs with his new girlfriend. Kramer adopts a mile of highway but gets too involved.

151. The English Patient 3/13/97

Jerry goes to Florida to help his parents move and ends up in a competition with an old man. Elaine is an outcast for not liking "The English Patient." Kramer has Jerry pick up some Cubans (cig-

ars) but they end up being Dominicans (people). George plots to replace a beautiful woman's boyfriend whom he is mistaken for.

152. The Nap 4/10/97 George has some adjustments made to his desk. Jerry gets his kitchen redone but it's a little too much. Kramer takes to swimming in the river because it's less crowded. Elaine meets someone who is concerned about her back.

153. The Yada Yada 4/24/97 George's new girlfriend skips the details in her stories. Jerry gets offended when Dr. Watty converts to Judaism. Elaine tries to help her friends adopt. Kramer and Mickey can't decide who gets which girl on a double date.

154. The Millennium 5/1/97 Kramer's millennium party clashes with Newman's. Elaine tries to hurt a store's business. George tries to get fired. Jerry is obsessed with his position on his girlfriend's speed dial.

155. The Muffin Tops 5/8/97 Elaine's muffin tops are big business. George pretends he is a tourist to get a girl. Jerry takes shaving a bit too far. Kramer gives tours of the "real" Peterman's life.

156. The Summer of George 5/15/97 George prepares for a great summer. Elaine gets catty with a co-worker. Kramer accidentally gets a Tony award and then has to earn it. Jerry and George team up in a relationship.

Season 9

157. The Butter Shave 9/25/97

Jerry is upset. Bania (The Soup) is riding his coattails so that Jerry takes a dive. Kramer starts using butter instead of shaving cream and ends up sauteed. George takes full advantage of his new boss who thinks he is handicapped. Elaine has a bad trip to Europe with David Puddy (The Fuscilli Jerry).

158. The Voice 10/2/97 Jerry has to decide between his new girlfriend or doing a funny voice. He chooses the voice but then changes his mind when the gang is tired of doing it. George's boss tries to get him to quit but he is no match for George. Elaine back slides and end up with Puddy again and again... Kramer gets an intern for "Kramerica" to help him run his

daily business.

159. The Serenity Now 10/9/97

Jerry's girlfriend tries to get him to let out his anger but once he lets one emotion out they all come out. George starts working for his father selling computers out of the garage but has to compete with Lloyd Braun. (The Gum) Kramer gets a screen door and turns his apartment into Anytown, USA but he runs into trouble with the neighborhood kids. Jewish men are attracted to Elaine because she has "Shiksappeal." Frank learns to calm down by saying "serenity now".

160. The Blood 10/16/97 George tries to combine food, sex, and TV. Kramer decides to keep his blood at home and ends up donating some to Jerry. Elaine wants to prove that she is responsible. Jerry's parents hire him a personal trainer...Izzy Mandlebaum!!! (The English Patient)

161. The Junk Mail 10/30/97

Kramer tries to cancel his mail. Jerry gets a free van through a childhood friend but the guy gets upset when he doesn't like it. Elaine loves a guy who is a TV pitchman. George's parents start ditching him.

162. The Merv Griffin Show 11/06/97

Kramer finds the set of the Merv Griffin Show in a dumpster and starts hosting people. Elaine tries to get back at a new co-worker who siddles. Jerry finds a way to play with his new girlfriend's awesome toy collection. George thought he had a deal with

the pigeons.

163. The Slicer 11/13/97 Kramer buys a meat slicer in order to get a good sandwich. Jerry tries a revenge date with a dermatologist who calls herself a life saver. Elaine's neighbor leaves her alarm on so she blows her fuse. George tries to remove himself from the background of a picture on his new boss' desk.

164. The Betrayal 11/20/97

165. The Apology 12/11/97

166. The Strike 12/18/97 12 years later after striking it, Kramer returns to work at a bagel store. Frank revives Festivus, a holiday he invented when George was a child. Jerry dates a girl who is attractive one day, ugly the next. Elaine gives a fake phone number on the back of a sub card that needed just one more stamp. George's Christmas gifts are donations to a fake charity.

167. The Dealership 1/8/98

Jerry is supposed to get the inside deal on his new car but runs into trouble when Elaine dumps Puddy. Kramer wants to see how Jerry's new car is going to fit his everyday life. George is starving but can't get anything from the candy machine.

168. The Reverse Peephole 1/15/98

Kramer and Newman reverse their peepholes. They want to avoid being attacked. Jerry goes on a wallet diet and ends up switching to a European Carryall. Elaine tries to get rid of Puddy's man fur. A vibrating chair that was supposed to be a gift is kept by George. ■

Classic Newman Lines from Seinfeld:

■ "Hmmm, that job sounds like it might be worth a year's free haircuts, and a comb."

■ "Do you wanna know why you can't go in front first, I'll tell you why, because it signals a breakdown in the social order, CHAOS, it reduces us to jungle law."

■ "I'm sure if we put our three heads together we will come up with something."

■ "Jambalaya!"

SPECIAL

TV
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Seinfeld

FOREVER

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FROM THE EDITOR

IS *SEINFELD* THE BEST COMEDY EVER?" It's a question we asked on the cover of TV GUIDE back in 1996. Jay McInerney, the author of that cover story, argued yes, and our millions of readers agreed. *Seinfeld* is the crème de la crème of the television world. It's the top of the muffin, the chocolate in the baklava, and, as everybody knows, the master of pop-culture domain. That's why we've devoted five covers to it over the years and created this definitive all-*Seinfeld* special issue.

We cast an in-depth look at every half hour to create an episode guide, complete with our own ratings, that will be as handy in five or 10 years—when we'll still be cheering at Kramer's entrances and shaking our heads at George's lies—as it is now, just as the show completes its prime-time run. We've drawn up several fun sidebars (including a tribute to J. Peterman, Kramer's best schemes, and Jerry and Elaine's not-so-significant others) and asked great photographers and illustrators to capture the *Seinfeld* cast. "You've seen a million pictures of these people, but believe me, you've never seen them like this," says TV GUIDE design director Ken Feisel, who enlisted famed fantasy illustrator Julie Bell to create the issue's "Force"-ful opener and drew upon the award-winning John Kascht for the fanciful illustrations that begin each chapter.

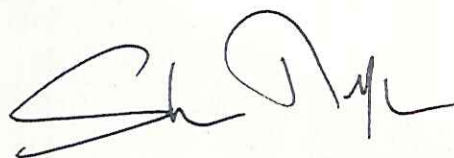
Creating this extravaganza has been a labor of love. For the last few months, TV GUIDE editors have been holed up in their offices viewing and reviewing every single episode, and falling in love with the series all over again. We've relived those heady days when it seemed as if George might actually tie the knot and that the boys might have a hit sitcom on their hands with *Jerry*. We've even celebrated Festivus out of season. "It's been so much work but so much fun," says Lisa Bernhard, the TV GUIDE senior editor who spearheaded the project. "Sometimes we would just need to double-check one fact in an episode, but we'd find ourselves laughing and

watching the whole thing all over again." Not that there's anything wrong with that.

The photography staff has been no less busy in Los Angeles, preparing several exclusive *Seinfeld* spectacles. We introduced 23 of Jerry's exes—the women who have walked into and out of his revolving-door romantic life, including, of course, dear "Mulva"—and asked them to pose for a group shot. TV GUIDE photography director Hazel Hammond reports that these lively, excitement-charged shoots ran smoothly; the stylist rose to the challenge of finding 23 dresses that would be worthy of TV's most eligible sitcom bachelorettes—and, of course, wouldn't clash! The gorgeous result will surely have Jerry eating his heart out.

The photo editors also placed 12 of *Seinfeld*'s recurring characters—"The Usual Suspects," we call them—in a playful pose (including the actors who play Mr. Pitt, David Puddy, Babu Bhatt, the Soup Nazi, Susan and, of course, Newman). "They were total hams," says Hammond. Another layout showcases 23 of the diverse guest stars who have passed through the *Seinfeld* universe in the last nine years, including Robert Wagner and Jill St. John, Jon Voight, Fred Savage, Rob Schneider and Corbin Bernsen. We also gave Morty and Helen Seinfeld, and Frank and Estelle Costanza their moments in the spotlight.

The result is part scrapbook, part family album, part almanac and all fun. So grab a big bowl of cereal, sit back and enjoy.



STEVEN REDDCLIFFE

Editor-in-chief

SEINFELD TV GUIDE FOREVER

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May the Tsouris* Be With You

**AFTER NINE YEARS
OF TRAVELING
THROUGH A GALAXY
OF LOW TALKERS
AND PUFFY SHIRTS,
PARKING SPACES
AND ASTRONAUT
PENS, THE CREW
COLLECTIVELY
KNOWN AS SEINFELD
LEAVES BEHIND A
LEGACY OF SKILLED
SELF-DEVOTION AND
ADMIRABLE INERTIA**

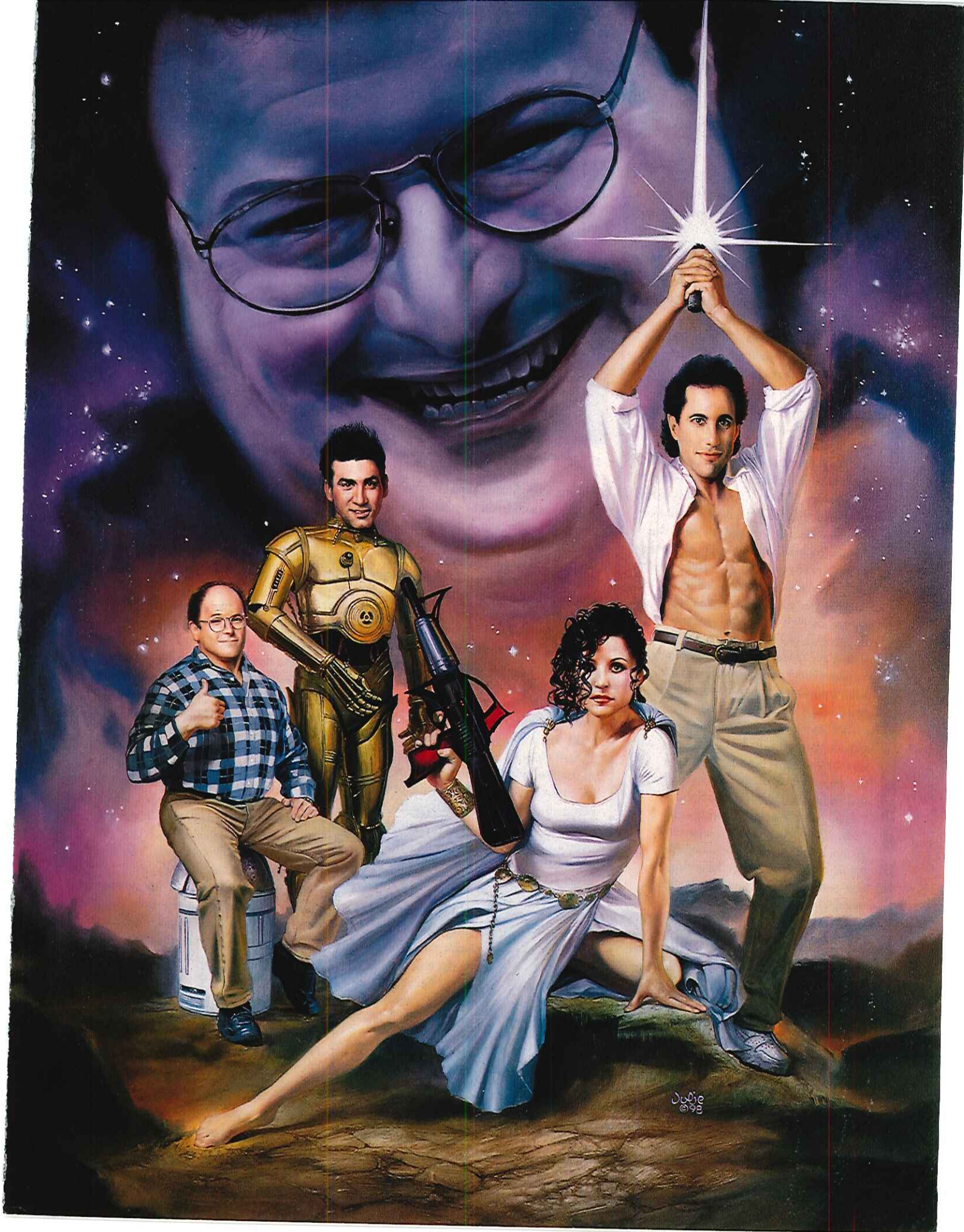
BY BILL ZEHME

* *Tsouris*: As Jerry's family would know, a Yiddish word meaning "troubles" or "aggravation." As in, "These Costanzas are giving us *tsouris*."

Like the show itself, this was an impossible spectacle: There we sat—the four of them and me—one fine spring night on Columbus Avenue, dining alfresco smack in the swirl of the Manhattan neighborhood where they were supposed to live but didn't really, except for the comedian-turned-multimillionaire, but he was never home much, anyway.

Pedestrians gawked—how could they not? Fiction had come to life! This hadn't happened before, except on television, and that was just a California mock-up version. But now here they were, together, right on the street, on *their* street, looking exactly like themselves, only less annoyed. The comedian ordered wine and poured it around so as to blur self-consciousness; instinctively he understood that the moment was surreal, tipped off perhaps by the random gasping of passersby, some of whom clutched their thoraxes and shrieked gleefully. "We are the kings and queen of New York!" he said that night, quite rightly but with certain irony. After all, the service was lousy and the food was taking forever and wasn't this typical of the small indignities they famously suffered to amuse a populace? Plus, he had chosen the restaurant, about which the female lead now needled him mercilessly. Said the tall, odd one with the vertical hair: "Maybe this is the management's way of keeping us here."

Oh, yes, they knew precisely what they meant to their nation. Even that night five years ago, when they assembled before me to startle New Yorkers, they knew how they ruled the culture. Random loyalists approached them throughout the meal, as they do anywhere, anytime, and as they will forevermore. "We were just reciting your entire show at dinner tonight," one woman called from the street. "That's amazing," replied Jerry Seinfeld, the comedian who bestowed his surname upon the phenomenon that inspired such fervid devotion. But in truth, he was not surprised at all. Since the decade's dawn he has been regularly accosted by *Seinfeldian* scholars who repeat to his face favorite utterances from his canon: "*Mulva!*" "*Not that there's anything wrong with that.*" "*Are those the panties your mother laid out for you?*" "*Yada, yada.*" "They seem to yell these



things at me in case I missed them before," he would say, mystified. "They don't seem to understand that I was there the whole time. I heard it when it happened on the show." He is rigorously logical that way and in most every other way as well. "There's nothing in life that I haven't thought about," he once revealed to me, apropos of nothing, as is his wont, as will be his legacy.

So now they quit on us. After nine television seasons (the first of which negligibly comprised five unnoticed half hours), they take their inevitable powder. Should we be stunned? Hardly. As George Louis Costanza, the pathetic one, once noted: "I come from a long line of quitters. My father was a quitter. My grandfather was a quitter. I was raised to give up." Giving up is a death of sorts, but in the dark and craven realm of *Seinfeld*, death equaled opportunity. There was Jerry, in episode 32, making time with the girlfriend of a failed-suicide coma victim. When Kramer nearly killed artist "Triangle Boy" Roy with a Junior Mint (episode 58), George saw only the promise of a valuable art collection. And what of toxic envelope glue and a dead fiancée and Costanza bachelorhood renewed (episode 126). On *Seinfeld*, death was remorseless and no worse than mugging an old lady for a coveted loaf of marble rye (episode 115) or dumping a woman whose toothbrush fell in the toilet (episode 142). Moreover, what's death when there are reruns?

Still, we will miss them but for reasons not proud. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who was the excellent moll Elaine Marie Benes—who regularly shoved her three male comrades with all due disbelief ("Get...out!")—told me long ago: "These four characters are a pathetic group, and they should disassemble promptly.... They do terrible things to one another. It's sociopathic. It's nuts!" *Seinfeld* himself would say: "There's



In episode 37, an astute art patron buys this portrait of a "parasite, a sexually depraved miscreant."

nothing really likable about them except that they remind you of yourself. That's their only redeeming quality. Because on paper, they are incredibly selfish and conniving. They will even trick each other, their closest friends, for the basest of goals, usually money or sex."

Most probably we loved them for being as bad as we want to be—and, sometimes, ashamedly, are. The comic genius Larry David—bald, bespectacled and curmudgeonly—cocreated all that is *Seinfeld* in his own image: "I take the worst thoughts that I have and try to make them funny." Specifically, he made himself George, as played by Jason Alexander, who once fretted to me about his character: "He walks the line of really being kind of hateful." (George always made Alexander, a very nice man, very nervous.) David legendarily had an actual New York neighbor named Kramer, every bit the goofball ne'er-do-well embodied by Michael Richards. To the

real Kramer, David long ago boasted of possessing "the two worst traits a person could have: a vicious temper combined with no guts." Made happiest when engaged in "stupid conversations" with his friend Seinfeld, the microphilosopher of the mundane, these two men forged the art

of nitcom, then put the id in idiocy. We are all the richer for it, although not as rich as they.

Here is what Jerry and Elaine and George and Kramer never did: They never hugged. They never learned. (This was per the long-held sacrosanct *Seinfeld* writing dictum "No hugging. No learning.") Also, they never grew. Not for nine years did they grow. "They were frozen in time," a bright woman in New York publishing, not unlike Elaine, told me recently. "That was such a comfort to me. No one ever got married, had kids, moved, became better people. No one was obsessed with evolving." Only at the outset of the seventh season did this thought occur to Jerry and George: "We're not men!" (Their subsequent heated pursuit of manhood, of course, went nowhere.) *Seinfeld* once characterized his ideal viewership as "the bored, the disaffected, the disenfranchised...the tired, the huddled masses." He was half-joking; he knew he made a show about stuck people for stuck people. Whenever TV Jerry & Co. encountered peers who had settled down in suburban houses, married with children and routine, they sneered and feigned superiority. *Seinfeld* embraced the romance of inner struggle, the brio of ambivalence, the courage of misery. Plus, look at all the casual sex they had! (They even turned abstinence from self-gratification into a thrilling contest.) Never before had young urban angst and ineptitude been so much fun. Sure, they led unrewarding lives, but they also got to play with Pez dispensers



Jerry lends a hand to Babu in episode 24, turning the Dream Cafe into a nightmare.



Working for a snickering millionaire (here, in episode 85) is the Pitts for Elaine.

and hoard maple syrup. How could this not be reassuring to a generation treading the same bottled water?

Of course, they made us a weaker nation. Once, long ago, Americans wrestled large problems, serious problems, issues that imperiled our freedom as a democracy and our future as a society. *Seinfeld* changed all that. "I don't like the news," the real Seinfeld once told me while he made cereal for himself in his spotless New York kitchen. "I like my life. The only thing topical I like is anesthetic." And so his show reflected. Unlike Norman Lear's Archie Bunker, *Seinfeld*'s Seinfeld railed not at contemporary moral plight but at low talkers and puffy shirts, at bad hygiene and imagined slights. He gave America permission to obsess over all that is inconsequential in life. We could whine openly about garment stains without guilt. (It is no small indication of our hopeless decline in social conscience that Rob Reiner, *All in the Family*'s bleeding-heart liberal Meathead, produced *Seinfeld* through his company, Castle Rock.) "The show is very out of touch," Seinfeld would happily concede. "I'm very proud of that, because if it were really in touch, it wouldn't hold up." He understood that timely wasn't timeless and, more important, that narcissism and pettiness have always been much funnier anyhow. Relevance schmelevance: Being out of touch was just the topical anesthetic we needed.

But the celebration of such shallowness week after week required enviable nerve and dedication. For instance, no matter

how much these characters lied, they were always honest about it. "I lie every second of the day," George once proclaimed loudly, thus typically. "My whole life is a sham!" (One last great Costanza lie in the homestretch, about having a house in the Hamptons, induced perhaps his finest writhing in all the show's nine years. "You don't let somebody lie when you know they're lying!" he screamed at one point, caught badly in his own deceit. "You call them a liar!") Former producer Larry Charles has sagely noted of the *Seinfeldian* universe: "People rarely say exactly what's on their minds in real life, so by lying, Jerry and George and Elaine and Kramer were all being honest. It's an honest show about lying." And even if they never learned anything, they handily grasped their own limitations as humans, which was an exemplary lesson to the rest of us.

"People think it's a smart show, but it's not," Seinfeld confessed one day as he and I wandered through a Los Angeles bookstore. "It's a show about admitting that you're stupid." I recall him at that moment flipping through the self-help classic *The Road Less Traveled* and mentioning that he had asked a friend



Lord of the Manicured: Hand-modeling George lets his fingers do the talking in episode 63.

who had read it to give him the book's essential nugget of truth. "My friend said, basically in a nutshell, it was: There are no shortcuts in life, that you must do everything completely, the whole drudgery of it all. I told him, 'I understand that, I respect it, I'm gonna use it in my life, and that's proof that there's the first shortcut.'" Limitations never looked smarter on any other man.

Did they love each other? "I hate everybody!" Jerry once announced, exulting in the misanthropy that seethed beneath every episode. But he didn't seem to hate his three desperate TV friends. If anything, he was their enabler, accepting each of their despicable traits as easily as they accepted the Snapple from


his refrigerator. ("Seven-eighths of all our business comes from that refrigerator," Louis-Dreyfus would say.) No one's bad behavior ever really shocked any of them. They called each other idiots when they were idiotic, which was a caring gesture in its own way. Theirs was a sick love giddily shared and it bonded them eternally.

And it bled over to civilian life. That night on Columbus Avenue, when the four of them convened to taunt reality and bad waiters alike, Seinfeld proudly stated, "Think about it: How many other casts in any other kind of show anywhere would want to spend 10 seconds with each other without being paid?" To which Alexander responded, "Waitaminate. We're not getting paid?" Seinfeld, oblivious: "We have what they call a chemistry!" Louis-Dreyfus, also oblivious: "I think someone just spit on me!" Michael Richards, profoundly oblivious: "Can somebody pass the bread?" Rarely have actors connected so magically.

But never were they without humbling insecurity over their fine fortune. Passing bread, Seinfeld continued: "I always thought there weren't enough people on our show for us to be a hit. I thought

Cheers was more popular because they had more people." Alexander pondered this and posited, "Because if you don't like one character, you'll like someone else?" Seinfeld: "Yeah, you can't have a hit show with only four people." Louis-Dreyfus, agitated: "Wrong, wrong, wrong. I'm so relieved there are only four of us. We are sick enough for five [different series]!" They sat quietly for a moment and thought this over. "Maybe she's right," said Seinfeld finally. "Yeah," said Alexander, "she's absolutely right! We're the sickest four people on any show! Who else would want to be near us, anyway?"

Nobody could ever come close, give or take several million viewers. Not for nothing will they be remembered.

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Who knew? Or more to the point, who could have known?

Pop phenomena aren't supposed to get such an inauspicious start. When the dry, wry Jerry Seinfeld made his quiet entrance into prime time, he could have been mistaken for just another pretender to the throne, arriving in the wake of the two stand-up titans who transformed and re-energized the TV sitcom in the '80s, the fatherly Bill Cosby and the blustery Roseanne Barr. His offbeat one-shot pilot, *The Seinfeld Chronicles*, barely created a ripple when NBC dropped it into the July 4th holiday week of 1989. Where were you? Probably not watching TV.

The first episode traded heavily on Seinfeld's stand-up shtick: "Do you know why we're here? To be out.... We're all out now. No one is home," begins his nightclub riff. But the show was far from its final form. Elaine was not yet in Jerry's orbit. (A deadpan luncheonette waitress is the main female presence.) Kramer, whose hair had yet to rise to baroque "Eraserhead" heights, is a mere afterthought in a bathrobe, barely distinguishable from wacky neighbors of yore.

Yet the essence of *Seinfeld* is there in the niggling banter between Jerry and his nebbish buddy George. We get a glimpse of sweet nothings to come as they micro-analyze the ambiguous subtext of urban life. George's assessment of Jerry's status with a potential new girlfriend is a virtual thesaurus of insecurity: "You're a backup, a second line, a just-in-case, a B-plan, a contingency."

In fact, *Seinfeld* endured also-ran status for almost another year. It didn't return to NBC until the sleepy Memorial Day week of 1990, with four new episodes that introduced Elaine as his feisty ex-flame who could hold her own with the boys. In a preview of the show's sardonic leanings, Jerry convinced Elaine to join him at a wedding by promising, "There's a lot of people to mock."

Little did we know how many they would mock before it would end.



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THE SEINFELD CHRONICLES

E P I S O D E 1

PREMIERED: 07/05/89 **WRITERS:** Larry David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Art Wolff **STORY:** Idle chatter, ha! The infamous theme of nothingness is struck in the very first exchange between Jerry and George in this debut episode. Seated at Pete's luncheonette (Monk's does not appear until episode 3), Jerry criticizes George's shirt with a stinging second-button theory ("That button's in the worst possible spot.... You look like you live with your mother"). Then Jerry reveals that a woman he met on the road is coming to New York and may hook up with him. Much is made of the woman's exact words, with George advising Jerry with the aplomb of a master semanticist. Later, in Jerry's apartment, adorned with gray leather couch and skylight, a bathrobed Kramer makes his first appearance by knocking on the door! Jerry and George then make the first of many airport runs (the mastery of which will later become an issue) to pick up Jerry's friend Laura. Back at the apartment, Laura appears to want to get friendlier with Jerry, but when the phone rings and a man asks for Laura, Jerry discovers that she is engaged. Potential relationship No. 1, kaput.

GUEST STAR: Pamela Brull (Laura) **SEIN POST:** Look for the first cereal box, something called Oaties. **KRAMER KONFIDENTIAL:** It is revealed that Kramer hasn't left the building in 10 years and that he once wanted to become a lawyer. **RATING:** ★★ Not as organically zany as later classic episodes but worth savoring for the novelty—and for Jerry's "nice guy" persona, which, thankfully, doesn't last.

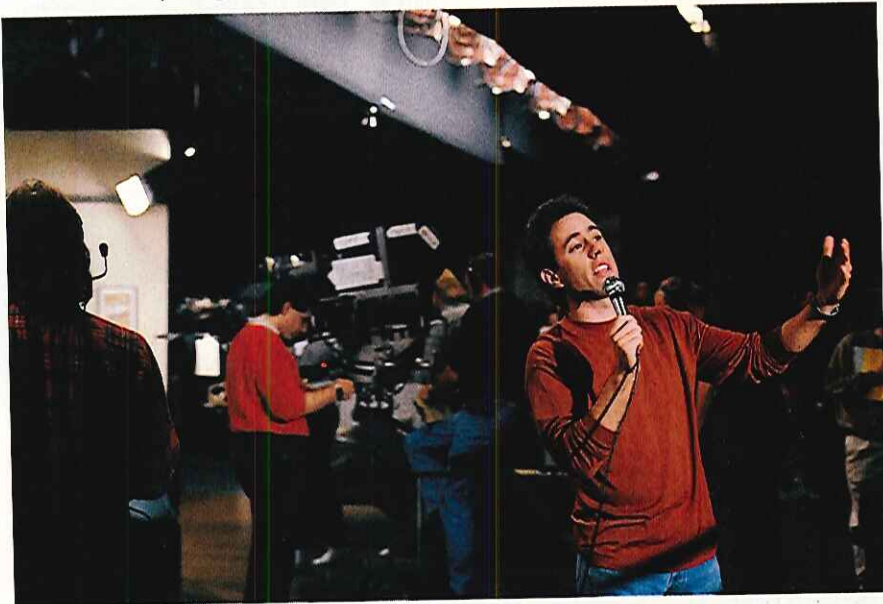
THE STAKEOUT

E P I S O D E 2

PREMIERED: 05/31/90 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** An episode that addresses (yikes!) a real dilemma: staying friends with your former lover. Enter ex-girlfriend Elaine Benes, who cuts a deal with Jerry in which he agrees to attend a birthday party with her. At the party, Jerry falls for her pal Vanessa but is unsure how to play it with Elaine

by his side. When Vanessa leaves after Jerry learns little more about her than the name of her law firm, he enlists George to accompany him on a stakeout of her office building. Later, he and Elaine have a heart-to-heart about their own relationship and how to deal with the fact that if they're "gonna be friends, we

there will be "a lot of people to mock." How can she resist? **THE ART OF DECEIT:** George's gift for creating untruths comes to the fore when he tells Vanessa he is an architect and introduces his favorite recurring phony name, Art Vandelay. **ELAINE EFFLUENCE:** We learn that Elaine's middle name is Marie. **RATING:** ★★ Only so-so in the yuks department but worth it for the uncharacteristically earnest tone of Jerry and Elaine's discussion of friendship.



Art imitates life imitates art imitates....: Real Jerry warms up one of the show's first studio audiences.

gotta be able to talk about other people." Could they have possibly guessed how many "other people" there would be?

GUEST STARS: Lynn Clark (Vanessa), Liz Sheridan (as Jerry's mom, Helen Seinfeld) and Phil Bruns (as dad Morty Seinfeld; he'll later be replaced by Barney Martin)

SEIN POST: Composer Jonathan Wolff's poppy theme music makes its debut (see page 89). **APARTMENT**

...but is it 99 percent germ-free? In episode 45, the Bubble Boy's dad delivers the sweet stuff.

REMODEL, PART ONE:

The skylight is gone, but Jerry still appears to be living in a studio apartment, only now the couch is blue. **INDICATION THAT THIS IS**

NOT FATHER KNOWS BEST: Attempting to convince Elaine to accompany him to a family wedding, Jerry promises her that

THE ROBBERY

E P I S O D E 3

PREMIERED: 06/07/90 **WRITER:** Matt Goldman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** While Jerry plays a gig in Minneapolis, Elaine apartment-sits. When Jerry gets back, he discovers that his TV, VCR, stereo, computer, answering machine and leather jacket have been stolen. It turns out that Kramer, making one of his numerous visits to scavenge through Jerry's kitchen, left the door open while Elaine was out. Real estate agent George informs Jerry that he knows of a fabulous two-bedroom apartment near Central Park. Jerry checks it out and decides to take it. Elaine, who wants to take over Jerry's apartment, is ecstatic. One hitch: George now wants the new apartment too. After much whining, the boys opt to decide in typically juvenile fashion: by "choosing" it. But a waitress picks up on the tip, and in the end, of course, nobody goes anywhere. **GUEST STAR:** Anita Wise (Waitress) **SEIN POST:** Monk's Café makes its debut with George emerging from the men's room and praising the mirror therein ("I look terrific in that mirror....





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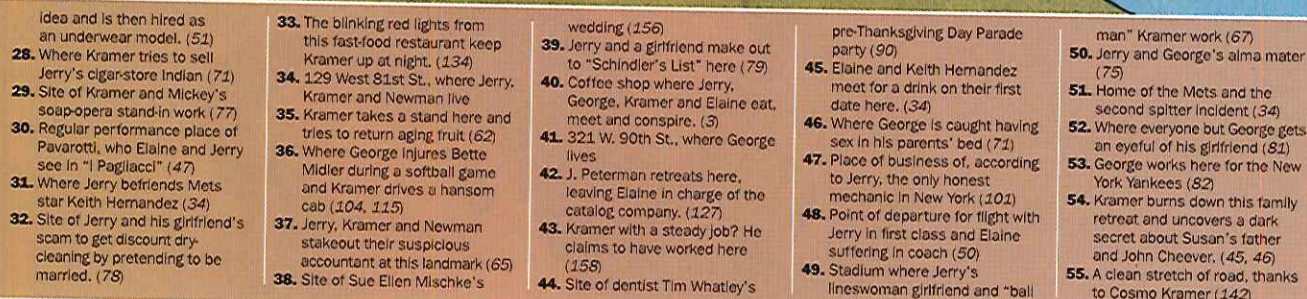


- APARTMENT REMODEL, PART TWO:** Jerry's studio has been expanded to a one bedroom. As he says to George: "What do I need two bedrooms? I got enough trouble maintaining activity in one." **RATING: ★★** Not much energy, although Kramer does make an early, tentative Krameresque entrance.

E P I S O D E 4

is tired of having to hang out with boyhood friend Joel because Joel has grown up to become loud, self-centered and obnoxious. Besides, the only reason Jerry befriended Joel in the first place was because Joel had a Ping-Pong table ("I was 10. I would have been friends with Stalin if he had a Ping-Pong table"). George advises Jerry to "break up" with Joel. Jerry attempts this over lunch at Monk's ("I don't think we should see each other anymore"), but when Joel starts crying, Jerry relents and tells Joel they're still

FIRST KRAMER SCHEME: He wants to start a chain of restaurants where people make their own pizzas. **OF MICE, NOT MEN:** Hearing of Jerry's plight with Joel, Elaine advises, "Deal with it—act like a man." Replies Jerry: "Oh, no." **RATING:** ★★ ★ This is the first episode to offer up a classic *Seinfeldian* "cringe" moment. In this case, it's Jerry's attempt to break away from Joel. What other sitcom would show a grown man cry over such matters?



E P I S O D E 5

CAT-ASTROPHE: Boasting she's finally dating a "normal man," Elaine admits to one problem: Her boyfriend, Robert, has two cats, and she's allergic. In desperation, she gives him an ultimatum—and loses to the cats. **IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S...:** Jerry and George debate whether Superman has a super sense of humor, introducing Jerry's obsession with the Man of Steel. **RATING: ★★** The stock-tip story never really gets moving, and Jerry's bum weekend with Vanessa seems tacked on.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

Jerry

If every group gets the leader it deserves, then the *Seinfeld* pack must have been good people in a previous life. Jerry is the (relative) grown-up in the crowd. He makes a good living, dates consistently (although not with the same person) and supplies the center of the action (his apartment).

Although he operates by the motto "Ask not what I can do for you, ask what you can do for me," much of the time he's a dutiful son and a loyal friend who is tolerant of his equally self-absorbed pals, rarely registering annoyance at Kramer's constant mooching, George's constant kvetching or his ex-girlfriend Elaine's constant carping. (For the record, he says they had sex 25 times.)

Still, Sometimes it seems like Jerry never got past Edward R. Murrow Junior High School. He plays with toys, argues about superheroes, has all sorts of issues about commitment. George summed it up by saying that Jerry's life "revolves around Superman and cereal." And you want to talk about pettiness? Jerry has lost interest in women for offenses as trivial as having "man hands" or liking Dockers commercials.

Wisely, Jerry chose a profession—stand-up comedy—where maturity is not held in high regard. Dispensing his insights about being and nothingness, this Sartre of the Upper West Side mocks everyone, including himself. Both on- and offstage, life à la *Seinfeld* is an endless series of insignificant but annoying events, a perpetual quest for a better parking space, a better apartment and a better girlfriend.

NICKNAMES: The Sein, Jerry Jerry Dingleberry, Seinsmelled, Master Packer

THE EARLY YEARS: Born and bred in

Queens, New York, Jerry graduated from Edward R. Murrow Junior High School and JFK High School (in 1971, with George). His now-retired garment dad, Morty, was the brains behind the beltless trench coat. Morty and Helen always worry that Jerry's broke, and his family hopes that he'll go into a more stable career, like working for the parks department.

WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR: A "single, thin and neat" man.

WHAT OTHERS SEE: Ditto, which leads some to believe that Jerry is gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

CAREER ARC: Successful stand-up comic; king of the "Did Ya Ever Notice This, Did Ya Ever Notice That" routine; failed writer-producer of the autobiographical sitcom *Jerry*

OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDERS: Gargles six times a day, returns a bobka with a hair on it, won't wear shoelaces that have grazed a men's-room floor

HEROES: Superman, Mickey Mantle

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS: His excuse Rolodex, Nick at Nite, yo-yos

PET PEEVES: Puffy shirts, low talkers, dirt or germs of any kind, body odor, soft cheeses (banned from his refrigerator), kissing people hello

SEXUAL PECCADILLOES: Loves women's breasts. "Why would I be a leg man? I have legs!"

DECODING RELATIONSHIPS: If a man lets a woman keep Tampax in his house, she has become a girlfriend. When you enter "phase two" of a relationship, you have "extra toothbrushes, increased phone-call frequency, walking around naked."

FOOD PREFERENCES: Cereal, Snapple, bananas, Nathan's hot dogs, black-and-white cookies ("the key to racial harmony")

SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Start acting like a man, not a boy; find the perfect mate. Both goals are probably unachievable, possibly undesirable.



2

1 9 9 1

When did the *Seinfeld* onlooker first begin to realize something special was going on here? It may have been Jerry making the anti-pony remark that some think killed his ancient cousin Manya. (We would soon enough learn *Seinfeld* takes no prisoners—and never ever mourns them.) Or maybe it was when Jerry and Elaine rekindled their sexual relationship, with arcane rules established to protect “the this” (friendship) from “the that” (the sex).

You didn’t need a superhero decoder ring to interpret the signals as this innovative show deftly tackled adult material with inspired euphemisms and devilish skepticism. Here was a dry-eyed *thirtysomething* about to hit its stride even as that dramatic cultural touchstone left the air.

Following a year of benign indifference, NBC finally gave *Seinfeld* a shot at finding an audience with a regular midseason berth in the winter and spring of 1991, eventually pairing it for a few precious and prescient weeks on Thursdays with *Cheers*. (Two years would pass before it would move back to that night for good.)

By the close of this abbreviated season, we experienced the first landmark demonstration of *Seinfeld*’s unusually talky and discursive style—a stand-up routine brought to life—as the gang (sans Kramer) waits to be seated in a Chinese restaurant. Oh, the urban indignity!

“What is it with humanity? What kind of a world do we live in?” George rants operatically. The nerve of somebody, keeping him from using a pay phone. As a famished Elaine whines and Jerry frets about missing a screening of cult sci-fi turkey “Plan 9 From Outer Space,” we watch these characters form a royal court of modern misanthropes whose basic demand is instant gratification.

Likable, schmikable. *Seinfeld*’s watercooler buzz slowly built on an impudent sensibility that allowed the show’s star to cheerfully boast, “Any kind of growth really irritates me.”



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I know what you're thinking, boy.

No doorbell.

No delivery guy.

Where'd this big ol'
juicy pizza come from, right?

Why don't you ask the cat?

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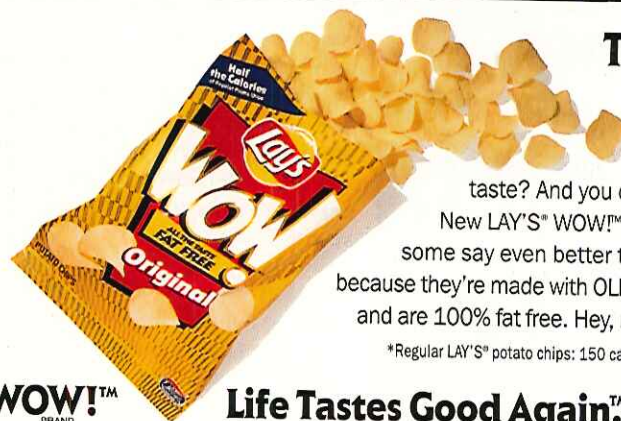
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THE EX-GIRLFRIEND

E P I S O D E 6

PREMIERED: 01/23/91 **WRITERS:** Larry David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** George heeds Jerry's advice and breaks up with his girlfriend, the southern-accented cashier Marlene, even though George has told her, "I love you." But then Jerry dates Marlene and discovers that she has a "psychosexual hold" over him. He worries what George will do when he finds out, but Elaine's bold confrontation with a neighbor who has stopped saying hi empowers Jerry to spill the beans. George, surprisingly, couldn't care less. Secondary storylines: George visits Jerry's chiropractor; Kramer obsesses about returning a bad cantaloupe to the supermarket. **GUEST STAR:** Tracy Kolis (Marlene) **THE RULES:** Jerry advising George on breaking up: "Just do it like a Band-Aid: one motion, right off." **RECURRING THEME NO. 2:** The first real glimpse of George as cheapskate: his outrage over a doctor's fee. "What's 75 bucks? Am I seeing Sinatra in there?" **EPISODE RATING:** ★★★ Some prime bantering between Jerry and George about relationships, and Elaine's frenzy over being snubbed is infectious.



In No. 12, Jerry says nix to laundry-mixing: "My guys don't know your guys."

THE PONY REMARK

E P I S O D E 7

PREMIERED: 01/30/91 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** In this Emmy-nominated episode, Jerry offends his Polish cousin Manya at her 50th-anniversary party when he mentions he hates anyone who ever had a pony as a child, unaware that she did ("It was the pride of Krakow"). When Manya dies unexpectedly, Jerry worries his pony remark may have been a contributing cause. After Jerry plays horribly at a softball championship game, Elaine speculates the dead Manya may have put a hex on him. Kramer considers redesigning his apartment into levels: furniture-free, carpeted steps, with "a lotta pillows—you know, like ancient Egypt." **GUEST STARS:** Rozsika Halmos (Manya), Barney Martin (replacing Phil Bruns as Morty Seinfeld), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Liz Sheridan (Helen Seinfeld) **SAY UNCLE:** Uncle Leo's irritating trademark traits are established: arm grabbing and talking up never-seen cousin Jeffrey, who works for the Parks Department. **ONE CHARACTER'S LOSS IS ALWAYS ANOTHER'S GAIN:** Elaine wants the dead woman's \$300-a-month apartment but loses out to the dreaded Jeffrey. **PRE-**

"JERRY MAGUIRE" MOMENT: Jerry tells Kramer, "Show me the levels!" **RATING:** ★★★ Jerry's offhand remark is just one of the killers in this winner.

THE JACKET

E P I S O D E 8

PREMIERED: 02/06/91 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Not even its unheard of price (never actually mentioned) can dampen Jerry's enthusiasm for his new purchase: a perfect-fitting, confidence-inspiring brown suede jacket. In a panic to keep it dry during a snowstorm, Jerry turns the jacket inside out, revealing a pink-striped lining, but Elaine's crusty dad, Alton, makes him wear it like a man. **GUEST STAR:** Lawrence Tierney

(Alton Benes) **DADDY DEAREST:** The only appearance of Elaine's pop, a tough-guy novelist who wrote *Fair Game*. **CATCHPHRASE THAT NEVER CAUGHT ON:** "Do me a solid"—as in a favor, as in Kramer needs someone to sit double-parked while he picks up a magician's doves. **NOT MASTER OF HIS BRAIN:** George worries that he's going crazy when he can't get the "Les Misérables" show tune "Master of the House" out of his head. **RATING:** ★★★ Jerry's excitement over his fabulous new fashion find—which quickly unravels into disaster—is a delight to behold.

THE PHONE MESSAGE

E P I S O D E 9

PREMIERED: 02/13/91 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry and George both have first dates on the same night. At the end of George's, he turns down an invite to go up to Carol's apartment for coffee. Realizing his mistake ("She invited me up," he says. "Coffee's not coffee, coffee's sex.... Coffee's coffee in the morning, it's not coffee at 12 o'clock at night"), he calls and leaves a series of increasingly desperate and angry messages, but then learns that she's out of town and can't retrieve her messages. He enlists Jerry's help to replace the tape on her machine. Jerry's free to help: He's bailing out of yet another potential relationship. The woman's crime? She enjoys Dockers TV ads. "They're talking about nothing," he insists. **GUEST STAR:** Tory Polone (Carol) **AMATEUR SHRINK:** When George is obsessing over what to do about the phone messages he has left for Carol, Elaine deadpans, "I don't know what your parents did to you." **SECRET TREASURES:** We hear the first mention of "the vault" in this episode. "I can't believe I said that," George tells Jerry after he discloses a confidence. "You know me, I'm a vault." **RATING:** ★★★ George is winning as a loser in love.

THE APARTMENT

E P I S O D E 10

PREMIERED: 04/04/91 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** The gang of four showcases its very flexible definition of friendship. Jerry tells Elaine about a rent-stabilized apartment that has opened up in his building, then immediately regrets it ("You know I love Elaine," Jerry tells George. "But, you know, not in the building"). With a little help from Kramer, who finds someone to pay \$10,000 for the lease, Jerry blocks her from moving. Meanwhile, George hatches his own scheme. After he learns that women are attracted to married

men, he takes to wearing a wedding band. Then several women indeed flirt with him at a party, but they refuse to believe it when he insists that he's actually available. **GUEST STARS:** Tony Plana (Manny the super), Glenn Shadix (Harold the landlord) **EVERYONE'S GOOD AT SOMETHING:** Jerry and George squabble over who's a bigger idiot. George refuses to concede defeat: "I am Costanza, lord of the idiots!" **IF ONLY...** George's missed opportunities include: a woman who has a thing for bald men with glasses, one who can get tickets for big sporting events and one who likes strictly physical relationships. **SUPERIOR BEINGS:** "People don't turn down money," says Jerry. "It's what separates us from the animals." **SEIN POSTS:** This is the first time Elaine shrieks, "Get out!" when she's shocked. **RATING:** ★★★ Liberally sprinkled with what were to become trademark *Seinfeldian* situations and musings.

THE STATUE

EPISODE 11

PREMIERED: 04/11/91 **WRITER:** Larry Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry finds a long-forgotten figurine left to him by his grandfather. After George notices its resemblance to the one he broke as a kid, he claims it and plans to surprise his parents, who have never gotten over the loss. Meanwhile, Elaine sees a promotion looming at Pendant Publishing when an insufferably somber Finnish writer named Rava asks her to edit a manuscript. But soon after Jerry hires Rava's boyfriend, Ray, to clean his apartment, the statue disappears and reappears at Rava and Ray's apartment. Coincidence? Jerry doesn't think so. Kramer, impersonating *Dragnet's* Joe Friday, decides to set things right. **GUEST STARS:** Michael D. Conway (Ray), Nurit Koppel (Rava) **TAKE THAT!** Fed up with the grim Rava, Elaine says, "Shouldn't you be out on a ledge somewhere?" **RATING:** ★★★ Choice, not prime.

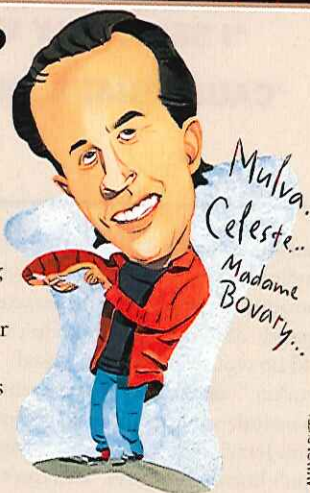
THE REVENGE

EPISODE 12

PREMIERED: 04/18/91 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** When George hastily quits his real estate job because his boss won't let him use the private bathroom, he decides to pretend he never resigned. But his boss won't let him have the job back, so George hatches a plan to drug his drink at an upcoming company party. ("It's like a movie!" George enthuses. "I'm going to slip him a mickey!") While George enlists Elaine's help in his payback

THE SEINFELD GUIDE TO SEX

Things never get too touchy-feely on *Seinfeld*, but there sure is plenty of talk about touching and feeling. Jerry and company have tackled taboo subjects such as masturbation and oral sex without ever naming such acts. Instead, they've addressed delicate subjects with a myriad of masquerading terms (perhaps in order to get "hand" in their relationship with those pesky NBC standards-and-practices bluenoses). The following is a lexicon of lust, *Seinfeld* style.



Are Those the Panties Your Mother

Laid Out for You? (episode 46) Jerry's lame attempt at talking dirty while seducing Elaine's secretary. (Shockingly, it ruins the mood.)

Backed Up (79) How Jerry is feeling because he hasn't had sex since his parents have come to stay with him

Buck Naked (49) Name George would call himself if he were a porn star

Changing Teams (96) Refers to homosexuals becoming straight and, presumably, vice-versa; despite Elaine's efforts, a gay guy decides to stay in his old stadium

Cleavage Peek (54) What George gets when the NBC president's teen daughter bends over

Do Everything (115) An oral performance Elaine's saxophone-playing boyfriend refuses to give; when he finally does, he can't perform (on the sax, that is).

Fornicating Gourmet (152) What Jerry calls George when he is able to combine his two passions, food and sex

Fugitive Sex (137) Mind-blowing sex George has after his convict girlfriend Celia breaks out of jail

Home-Bed Advantage (10) Benefit one has when making love in one's own surroundings; what Jerry worries he will lose if Elaine moves into his building and drops by unannounced

It (77) Elaine's term for a particular part of a man's body (you know: it)

It Didn't Take (105) George's explanation for Susan's fleeting lesbian experience

I Want to Slide My Tongue Around You Like a Snake (25) Anonymous erotic message Elaine leaves on Jerry's tape recorder, exciting George, Jerry and Kramer

Makeup Sex (106) Jerry's favorite kind of sex in a serious relationship

Master of Your Domain (49) One who can abstain from masturbation (the longest, if in a contest)

The Move (101) Jerry's masterful bedroom technique that Puddy adopts, satisfying Elaine; involves a headboard

Mulva (58) What Jerry guesses his girlfriend's name is, knowing only that "it rhymes with a female body part"

My Boys Can Swim! (33) George's joyous cry when convinced his sperm impregnated his date

The Naked Station (14) The dirty channel Jerry and Elaine watch, boring them into having sex; a channel that George says he knows better than to sign up for because he would never leave the house

Nip (51) Elaine's nickname after co-workers discover an embarrassing detail (her nipple) on her Christmas card photo.

Put In (88) Amount of time one must devote to a relationship after it has become sexual

Sexual Camel (135) George's term for his ability to go without sex for a long time

Sexual Perjury (62) Jerry's term for faking orgasm. After Elaine claims she "faked 'em all" with Jerry, he begs for another shot (and gets it).

Shrinkage (81) Physical reaction George is caught having after swimming in cold water

Slip One Past the Goalie (86) To impregnate a woman

Sponge-Worthy (113 and 115) Quality one possesses if Elaine decides to sacrifice one of her precious, discontinued Today contraceptive sponges for sex. See: "Do everything."

The Switch (93) An (always ill-fated) attempt to go out with one woman, then dump her and date the roommate

The Tap (62) Dissatisfied date's signal for George to stop his attempt to "do everything"

scheme, Kramer convinces Jerry to settle a score with Vic the laundromat guy, whom Jerry (mistakenly) believes pocketed \$1,500 he'd stashed in his laundry bag. The ensuing scenes—with Kramer attempting to fill a washing machine with a bag full of dry cement and Elaine flirting

wildly with George's boss—find the *Seinfeld* team at the top of their game.

GUEST STARS: Fred Applegate (Levitan, George's boss), John Capodice (Vic)

SEIN POSTS: Kramer's friend in the building (an unseen Newman) is suicidal but decides not to jump and goes to a movie

**"I SERIOUSLY WANTED TO CALL [SEINFELD] THAT SHOW WITH THAT GUY,
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY THE NEXT DAY: 'DID YOU SEE THAT SHOW
WITH THAT GUY?'" —Jerry Seinfeld**

instead. "Newman was the son of the landlord," says Wayne Knight, who introduced the on-screen character in episode 32. "But that just didn't wash, and he wound up being a postal worker." **SEPARATE BUT EQUAL:** Kramer asks to include some of his dirty laundry in with Jerry's, but Jerry resists. "My guys don't know your guys. You can't just lock 'em all in the same machine together. They'll start a riot." **RATING: ★★** Poisoning and destruction of property? Not so hilarious.

THE HEART ATTACK

EPISODE 13

PREMIERED: 04/25/91

WRITER: Charles

DIRECTOR: Cherones

STORY: George's hypochondria and cheapness get him into a heap of trouble. First, he experiences chest pains ("I know what this is," Jerry says. "You saw that show on PBS last night, *Coronary Country*"). At the hospital, George learns that what he really needs is a tonsillectomy. Kramer convinces him to visit his pal Tor, a holistic healer whose herbal-tea remedy sends George to the E.R., screaming, "I'm an eggplant!" **GUEST STARS:** John Posey (Doctor), Stephen Tobolowsky (Tor Akman) **KISS OFF:** While on a date with George's doctor, Elaine learns all about the biology of the tongue and is too turned off to lock lips with him. **RATING: ★★★** Jason Alexander's performance is a tour de George.

THE DEAL

EPISODE 14

PREMIERED: 05/02/91 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones

STORY: After flipping to "the naked station" on TV, Jerry and Elaine commiserate over their respective dry spells (Jerry: "Someday I hope to do it again." Elaine: The last time, "my hair was a lot shorter.") They decide to do "that" but don't want to ruin their

friendship ("this"), so they set some rules. No calls the next day, sleeping over is optional, no good-night kisses. It doesn't work. What's an appropriate birthday gift? Jerry gives Elaine cash and a birthday card ("to...a great pal and more"). The deal dissolves. "I want this, that and the other," says Elaine. Turns out you can't have it all. **GUEST STAR:** Siobhan Fallon (Tina, Elaine's roommate). **BACK STORY:** We learn Elaine kept count of how many times she and Jerry did "that" (37). **RATING: ★★★★★** Only "The Contest" deals as brilliantly with sexual matters. Secretly believe Jerry and Elaine belong together? Here they are.

Dating a comatose guy's girl, Jerry buys Newman's silence with these tasty treats in episode 32.



THE BABY SHOWER

EPISODE 15

PREMIERED: 05/16/91 **WRITER:** Charles

DIRECTOR: Cherones

STORY: Jerry dies! Sort of. After Kramer talks him into getting an illegal cable hookup, Jerry dreams that FBI agents riddle his criminal body with bullets. Elaine throws a baby shower at Jerry's place for her performance-artist pal Leslie, who once tossed a can of chocolate syrup on George, ruining his new red shirt. He shows up at the shower in his stained shirt to confront Leslie, only to wimp out and help the mommy-to-be carry her presents. **GUEST STAR:** Christine Dunford (Leslie) **DISEASE DU JOUR:** Elaine says her roommate suffers from "Epstein-Barr with a twist of Lyme disease," and suspects the latter came from rolling on a tick during an outdoor performance of "Hair." **RATING: ★★** Too much straining to pull together storylines that don't seem worth the effort.

THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

EPISODE 16

PREMIERED: 05/23/91 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** On

their way to see "Plan 9 From Outer Space," Jerry, George and Elaine stop in for a quick bite at a Chinese restaurant. The maître d' tells them it'll be a five- or 10-minute wait, but time drags on. Jerry worries he'll miss the one-night-only movie showing, George frets because the pay phone's constantly in use, and Elaine is simply starving. Lots of people are seated; the wait goes on. They finally bail, seconds before their table is ready. **GUEST STAR:** James Hong (Bruce the maître d') **SEINFELD FOR MAYOR?** Jerry suggests combining the jobs of cop and garbageman: "Catch a criminal, get right back to sweeping." **SUPERHERO ALERT:** Because his girlfriend's bathroom doesn't have a "buffer zone," George wishes he could use the exit excuse, "I am in reality Batman, and I'm very sorry, I just saw the Bat signal." **RATING: ★★★★★** Rightfully regarded as an essential *Seinfeld*. Unfolding in real time and a single setting, it epitomizes how a show about nothing can be about everything.

THE BUSBOY

EPISODE 17

PREMIERED: 06/26/91 **WRITERS:** David,

Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** When George unwittingly gets Antonio the busboy fired from an Italian restaurant, he is determined to make amends. Initially his good intentions go awry, but George ends up saving Antonio's life when a gas explosion kills five people at the restaurant, including the busboy's replacement. Elaine is hell-bent on getting her Seattle beau, Eddie, to the airport on time after his weeklong stay at her place has driven her over the edge. **GUEST STARS:** Doug Ballard (Eddie), David LaBiosa (Antonio) **INDELIBLE IMPRESSION:** Speaking from experience, Jerry says Eddie is suffering because "the Benes tattoo does not wash off easily." **TIME AFTER TIME:** Elaine's new alarm clock fails, presaging "The Hot Tub" episode. **RATING: ★★** Elaine, barefoot in pj's, frantically trying to rush Eddie to the airport (she even helps him put his pants on) is a gem, but this season ender's plot machinations close out with a clank.

Newport

pleasure!



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette
Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

17 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per
cigarette by FTC Method.

© Lorillard 1998



WAYNE KNIGHT
Newman

**"AS LONG AS THE SHOW
IS RUNNING AND THERE
ARE CHECKS COMING IN, PEOPLE
CAN SAY, 'HELLO, NEWMAN,' AS
MUCH AS THEY WANT. BUT IF I'M
SITTING IN A GUTTER
SOMEWHERE SIPPING WOOLITE,
LEAVE ME ALONE."**

—Wayne Knight

THE USU

As vexing as Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer sometimes are, they can at least take comfort in knowing that some equally nettlesome nitwit will soon cross their collective path. Says Len Lesser of his doppelgänger: "Uncle Leo, in a word, is a pain in the ass." Larry Thomas's recipe for the Soup Nazi? "Saddam Hussein with just a dash of Hitler." We rest our case.



BRIAN GEORGE
Babu Bhatt

BRENDA STRONG
Sue Ellen Mischke

HEIDI SWEDBERG
Susan Biddle Ross

AL SUSPECTS

"THE GENIUS OF THE SHOW IS THAT IF SOMEBODY COMES IN WITH AN IDEA AND THE PRODUCERS LIKE IT, THEY'LL LET YOU GO WITH IT. THEY JUST WANT FUNNY. FUNNY WINS." —Stephen Hytner (*Kenny Bania*)

LEN LESSER

PETER CROMBIE

STEPHEN HYTNER

PATRICK WARBURTON

Uncle Leo

"Crazy" Joe Davola

Kenny Bania

David Puddy



DANNY WOODBURN

IAN ABERCROMBIE

RENI SANTONI

LARRY THOMAS

Mickey

Mr. Pitt

Poppie

Soup Nazi

MICHAEL TIGHE FOR TV GUIDE (2); STYLIST: DAVID WHITACRE/HELLER; HAIR AND MAKEUP: DANIEL HOWELL/CLOUTIER, SHANNON FROST/CLOUTIER, CATHY HIGHLAND/CLOUTIER, MARGARET NIMURA/CLOUTIER, BRAD BOWMAN/HELLER; PROP STYLIST: DAVID ROSS; CLOTHING: KNIGHT: GAP; SWEDBERG: RALPH LAUREN/BLOOMINGDALE'S, CENTURY CITY; STRONG: SHIRT BY BIEBE; CROMBIE: CLOWN COSTUME, EC2, STUDIO CITY; WARBURTON: MINK COAT, SOMPER FURS, BEVERLY HILLS; BLACK T-SHIRT, BANANA REPUBLIC; PANTS: GAP; SHOES: J.P. TOO'S

3

In its first full season on the air, *Seinfeld* comes to resemble an Abbott and Costello comedy more and more, filtered through a twilight zone of high anxiety. While creating its one-of-a-kind comic universe with seemingly mundane objects (a Pez dispenser, an overdue library book, an "astronaut" pen) and quirky catchphrases (gaining "hand" in a relationship), the show plunges the unsuspecting viewer into a series of memorably surreal misadventures in the twisted metropolis of New York City.

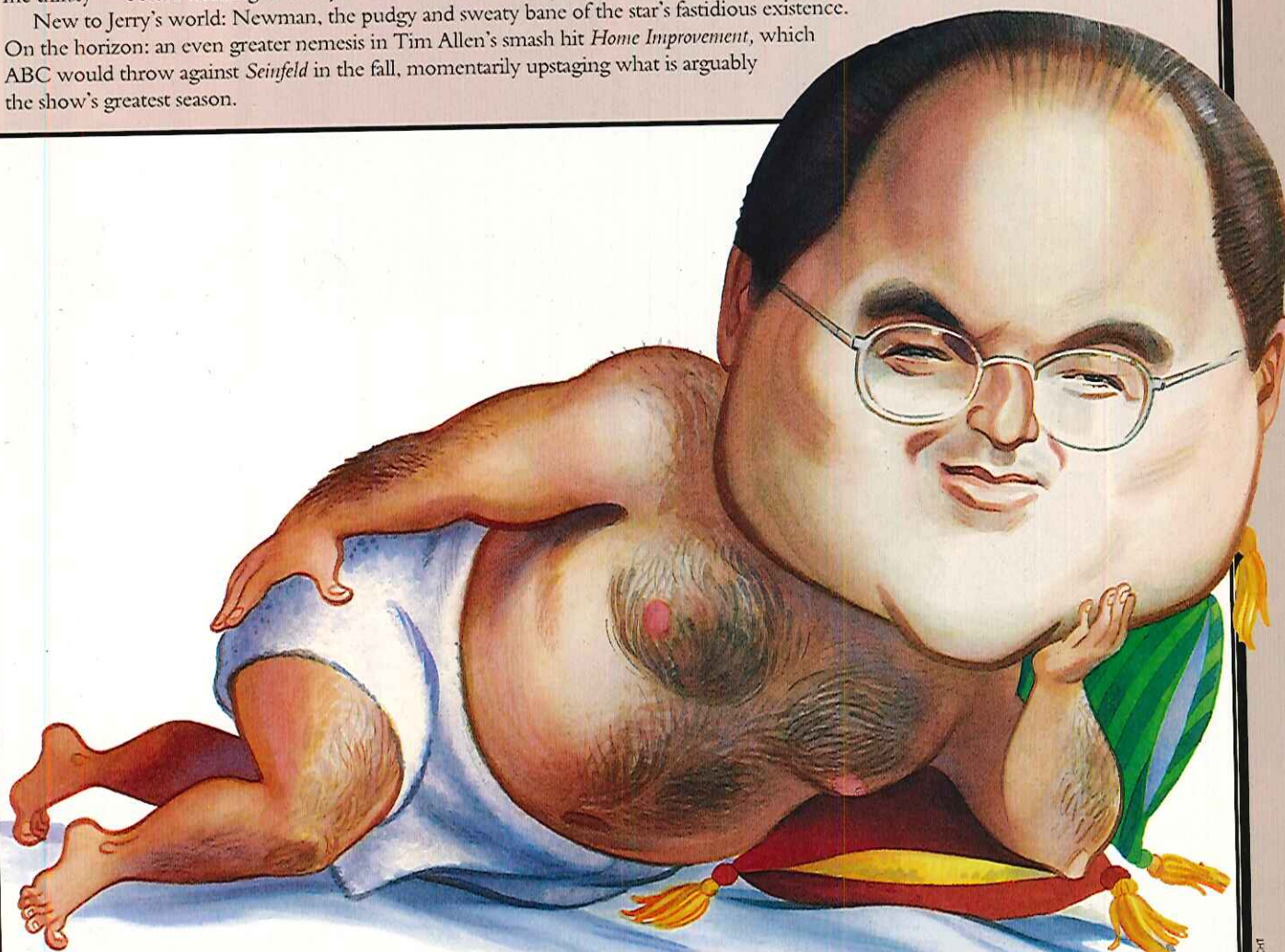
A parking garage becomes a nightmarish limbo, a subway ride is a ticket to nowhere, and a fortuitous limo ride must be shared with neo-Nazis. In a classic extravaganza, a spitting incident at a Mets game is relived through a Zapruder-like video, wonderfully spoofing director Oliver Stone's "JFK" obsessions.

And consider this brilliant exchange between a bemused Jerry and a befuddled George, who laments during another relationship crisis, "I don't want hope. Hope is killing me. My dream is to become hopeless." Jerry answers, "So hopelessness is the key," and George counters, "It's my only hope." The poor guy can't even relax when getting a massage. In a precursor of future episodes dealing with perceptions of sexual orientation,

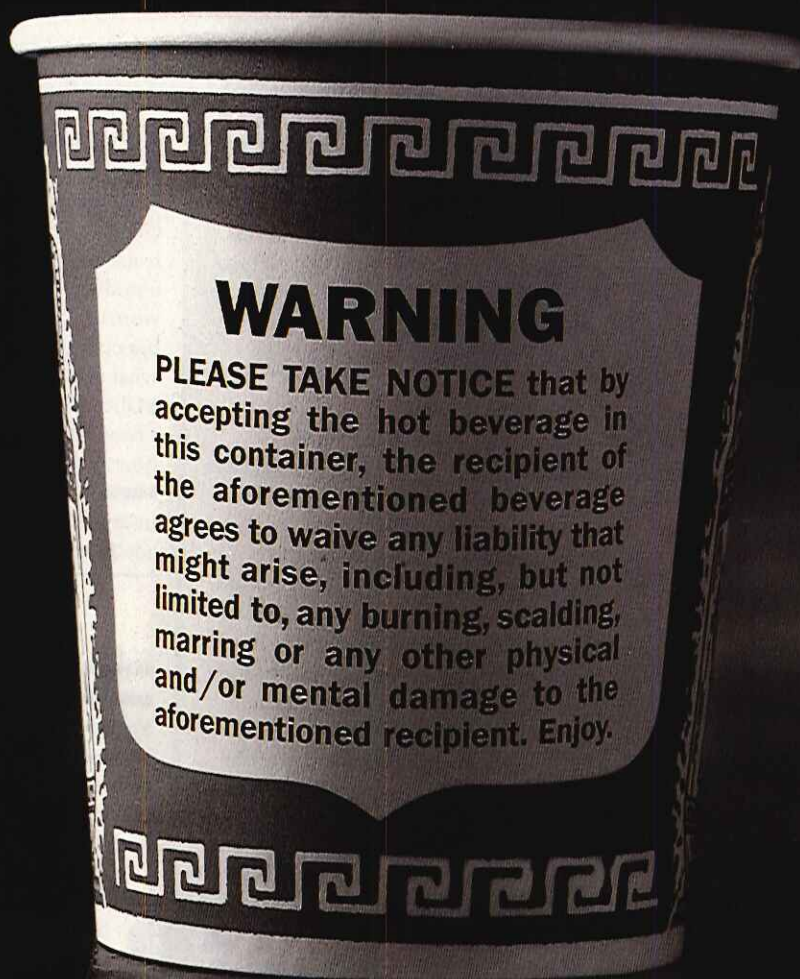
George freaks at his body's reaction to a masseur's handiwork. "I think it moved," he cries in self-disgust.

As hilarious as it is bleak, Jerry's Manhattan is a far cry from Woody Allen's more picturesque and romantic vision. (But the nutty Kramer, who comes into his flamboyant own this season, would get a one-line cameo in an Allen movie—"These pretzels are making me thirsty"—before heading to Hollywood to become one of Murphy Brown's secretaries.)

New to Jerry's world: Newman, the pudgy and sweaty bane of the star's fastidious existence. On the horizon: an even greater nemesis in Tim Allen's smash hit *Home Improvement*, which ABC would throw against *Seinfeld* in the fall, momentarily upstaging what is arguably the show's greatest season.



JOHN JASCHKE



CHANGE IS BAD

UNCHANGED

HERSHEY'S
MILK CHOCOLATE

SINCE 1899

"MAYBE IT HELPED THAT I LOOK A LITTLE BIT LIKE JERRY. THE FIRST DAY WE WORKED TOGETHER, I TOLD HIM, 'YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY FATHER DID WHEN HE WAS IN HIS 30s.' MY FATHER LOOKED LIKE GEORGE GERSHWIN, AND SO DOES JERRY." —Liz Sheridan (Helen Seinfeld)

THE NOTE

EPISODE 18

PREMIERED: 09/18/91 **WRITER:** Larry David
DIRECTOR: Tom Cherones **STORY:** Jerry steers George and Elaine to his massage therapist because the treatment is covered by health insurance. But first they must get doctors' notes. Jerry and George ask Jerry's dentist, who agrees to help but is later investigated for insurance fraud. On the table, Jerry weirds out the female therapist when he tries to make conversation by bringing up the abduction of a small boy. George, expecting a sex-kitten masseuse, gets Raymond the blond Adonis; he enjoys the rubdown, which makes him fear he's gay ("I think it moved," he says). Elsewhere, Kramer has a Joe DiMaggio sighting at Dinky Donuts and is amazed to learn that the Yankee Clipper is a "dunker." **GUEST STAR:** Jeff Lester (Raymond) **SEIN POST:** A female chorus oddly sings along with the theme song at points. **MR. EMPATHY:** What would be the worst thing about blindness? Jerry's answer: Not being able to see the bugs in the food you're eating. **RATING:** ★★★ Wonderfully kneads the language, but a little stiffness remains in the plotting.

THE TRUTH

EPISODE 19

PREMIERED: 09/25/91 **WRITER:** Elaine Pope **DIRECTOR:** David Steinberg **STORY:** George tries the "It's not you, it's me" breakup ploy, but Patrice won't have it. The accountant insists on hearing the truth, and George unloads, sending her into a nervous breakdown ("I've driven women to lesbianism before," George marvels, "but never to a mental institution"). The breakdown is disastrous for Jerry: He's being audited, and Patrice has his tax records. Meanwhile, Elaine is forced to audit the sexual habits of Tina, her roommate, and Tina's new guy, Kramer. **GUEST STARS:** Siobhan Fallon (Tina), Valerie Mahaffey (Patrice) **SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS CALLED:** Jerry refers to a vital part of

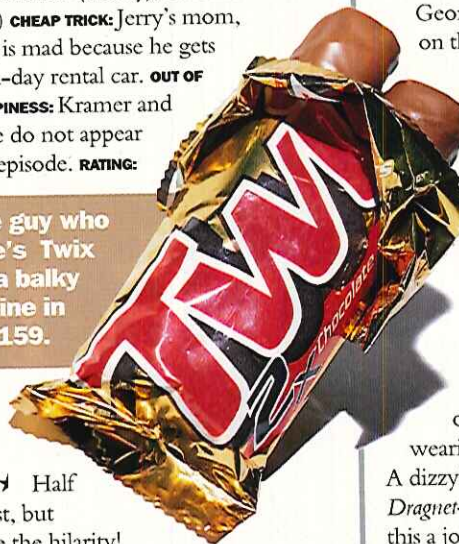
Kramer's anatomy as "Mr. Johnson." **FISCAL FITNESS:** Elaine tells George he's cheap. George's response is pure Costanza: "When I was working, I *spent*, baby." **A FUSILLI IDEA:** Kramer prefers to strain his pasta and his sauce. **RATING:** ★★★ The real truth here is that George is already becoming one of TV's greatest sitcom creations.

THE PEN

EPISODE 20

PREMIERED: 10/02/91 **WRITER:** David Cherones **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** Jerry and Elaine visit Florida to see Jerry's dad, Morty, honored by his condo association. When Jerry admires neighbor Jack Klompus's upside-down-writing astronaut pen, Jack offers it to Jerry. In a move that shakes the foundation of the condo community, Jerry accepts the pen. Elaine spends a brutal night on the Seinfelds' pullout couch, which leaves her nearly paralyzed with back pain. Morty's special evening is ruined when Jack berates him over the pen scandal. **GUEST STARS:** Sandy Baron (Jack), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen) **CHEAP TRICK:** Jerry's mom, Helen, is mad because he gets a \$25-a-day rental car. **OUT OF THE LOOPINESS:** Kramer and George do not appear in this episode. **RATING:**

Woe to the guy who grabs George's Twix bar from a balky candy machine in episode 159.



★★★½ Half the cast, but double the hilarity!

THE DOG

EPISODE 21

PREMIERED: 10/09/91 **WRITER:** David Cherones **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** Jerry's seat mate on a plane ride is a horrendous drunk who gets sick and forces an emergency

landing. Jerry is the unlucky sap forced to watch the man's huge dog, Farfel. Farfel's stay cramps Jerry's social life, leaving George and Elaine alone together and realizing that without him they're merely friends-in-law. Kramer breaks up with a woman who everyone agrees is awful, but ends up back with her—and resenting what everyone said. **GUEST STAR:** Joseph Maher (Passenger) **OBSESSIVE-CONVULSIVE:** Elaine tells George that Jerry gargles six times a day—and tries to do it *quietly*. **RATING:** ★★ Some ripe subjects (friends-in-law, Kramer's breakup), but none feels adequately explored.

THE LIBRARY

EPISODE 22

PREMIERED: 10/16/91 **WRITER:** Larry Charles **DIRECTOR:** Joshua White **STORY:** The New York Public Library tracks down Jerry because of a 20-year overdue copy of *Tropic of Cancer*. Jerry insists he returned it and vows to solve the case. He faces off with the library's just-the-facts Lieutenant Bookman; Kramer woos a prim librarian; George thinks a homeless guy living on the library steps is the gym teacher who lost his job after George turned him in for giving him a wedgie. **GUEST STARS:** Philip Baker Hall (Bookman), Biff Yeager (gym teacher Mr. Heyman), Cynthia Szigeti (Sandy the librarian) **HAIR APPARENT:** We see George in high school, with a full head of hair, looking like Albert Brooks. **SEIN LANGUAGE:** "Memory burn": In this case, it's the unforgettable orange dress Jerry recalls a girl wearing in high school. **RATING:** ★★★ A dizzying, O. Henryish ending and the *Dragnet*-parody lingo ("joy boy") makes this a joy, boy.

THE PARKING GARAGE

EPISODE 23

PREMIERED: 10/30/91 **WRITER:** David Cherones **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** After shopping at a New Jersey mall, the gang can't find Kramer's car. Kramer is carrying an air-conditioner,

Elaine has a live goldfish in a plastic bag, Jerry has to pee, and George has to meet his parents in Manhattan. At Kramer's urging, Jerry and George urinate in the garage, and they both get busted. **GUEST STAR:** David Dunard (Security Guard) **YOU GOTTA BE KIDNEYING ME:** Jerry bests lyin' George by telling the guard that he suffers from "uromicitis poisoning." **GET THIS MAN AN ELECTRONIC ORGANIZER:** George says: "I can't carry a pen. I'm afraid I'll puncture my scrotum." **RATING: ★★★★★** A must-see. The gang's traits erupt big-time as a bunker mentality sets in.

THE CAFE

EPISODE 24

PREMIERED: 11/06/91 **WRITER:** Tom Leopold **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry becomes obsessed with a fledgling new restaurant on his block run by Pakistani Babu Bhatt. Known as the Dream Café, it boasts a culture-spanning menu. Do-gooder Jerry convinces Babu to change to an all-Pakistani menu. It backfires. George's brains come into question while dating Monica. She wants him to take an IQ test. Elaine takes it for him once, then cheats on the retest (don't ask) and gets caught. **GUEST STARS:** Brian George (Babu), Dawn Arnemann (Monica) **SEIN POST:** Jerry's bicycle makes its debut hanging outside Jerry's bathroom. **RATING: ★★** Some funny ingredients, but it doesn't really ever get cooking.

THE TAPE

EPISODE 25

PREMIERED: 11/13/91 **WRITERS:** David, Bob Shaw, Don McEnery **DIRECTOR:** Steinberg **STORY:** While reviewing an audio tape of a recent stand-up date, Jerry hears the voice of a woman talking "like a *Penthouse* letter." Jerry vows to find her. Elaine admits to George (who's in the midst of a Chinese baldness treatment) that she's the voice but swears him to secrecy. By the end, all three guys are completely entranced by their distaff pal. Naturally, she's disgusted. **GUEST STAR:** Introducing Ping Wu (baldness-treatment delivery boy; called Ping in later episodes) **VIDEO DOME:** Camcorder-obsessed Kramer tries to document George's hair-growing progress. **SEIN POST:** No stand-up segment at end of show. Credits run over last regular segment.

RATING: ★★ Wackiness artfully sustained from beginning to end.

THE NOSE JOB

EPISODE 26

PREMIERED: 11/20/91 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** George wants to dump big-nosed Audrey, but she goes under the knife

DROPPING ANCHOR: George, trying to convince Audrey to get a nose job, says Peter Jennings had one. **RATING: ★★** If only for a fantasy sequence showing the struggle between Jerry's brain and his genitals in a chess match, a brilliant homage to Ingmar Bergman's "Seventh Seal."

THE STRANDED

EPISODE 27

PREMIERED: 11/27/91 **WRITERS:** David, Seinfeld, Matt Goldman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry and Elaine accompany George to a party given by a co-worker on Long Island. Jerry and Elaine are bored, but George meets somebody and goes home with her, leaving his pals to fend for themselves (Kramer to the rescue!). Jerry idly tells Steve, the host, to drop by his place sometime, and soon enough Steve's there, hiring a call girl and getting Jerry into a legal scrape. **GUEST STAR:** Michael Chiklis (Steve) **PARTY ETI-QUIT:** Jerry and Elaine agree that if they need to be saved from a tedious conversation, they'll signal each other with a head pat. **STREEP SAVVY:** To an annoying woman, Elaine bizarrely quotes from the movie "A Cry in the Dark": "Maybe the dingo ate your baby." **RATING: ★★** An exquisite depiction of an excruciating social scene.

THE ALTERNATE SIDE

EPISODE 28

PREMIERED: 12/04/91 **WRITERS:** David, Bill Masters **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Everyone's on the road to nowhere. Jerry's car is stolen because Sid, the guy who gets paid to move residents' cars to the alternate side of the street, accidentally left the keys in the ignition. George subs for Sid and handles the job with his usual aplomb by tying up traffic and wrecking Jerry's rental car. Meanwhile, Elaine plans to break up with her latest flame, Owen March, a "vibrant" 66-year-old (who later tells her he was just in it for the sex). But he suffers a stroke just as she's about to deliver the bad news. Kramer lands one line in a Woody Allen movie ("These pretzels are making me thirsty!"), but he gets fired when he breaks a beer mug, cutting the Woodman (not seen). The phrase outlasts Kramer's



Elaine takes George's IQ test but blows it when Kramer distracts her (episode 24).

and emerges with a schnozz that still doesn't meet with his approval. He weasels out of a Florida vacation with her, and Audrey breaks up with him. The equally deep Jerry is dating Isabel, a bubble-brained actress (his pickup line: "You know, I'm the one responsible for those crop circles in England"). Jerry wants to break up with her, but the sex is too good. A long-running story of Kramer's lucky jacket continues. **GUEST STARS:** Susan Diol (Audrey), Tawny Kitaen (Isabel) **MAMA KRAMER:** She doesn't appear in the flesh until episode 93, but we learn that Cosmo's mother is named Babs and is a Colt '45-drinking "stumblebum."

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Jerry finds himself inexplicably bonding with a nude businessman in episode 30, "The Subway," the first to send all four characters off in separate directions.

film career, with Jerry, George and Elaine adopting it to express any frustration. **GUEST STARS:** Jay Brooks (Sid), Edward Penn (Owen) **WOULD ANN LANDERS AGREE?** Jerry tells Elaine she must break up with Owen in person because they've been out at least seven times: "If it was six, I could let you go. Seven is over the limit...unless there was no sex." **RATING:** ★★★ Clever misanthropy. Plus, the pretzel line has an esteemed place in the lexicon of *Seinfeld* catchphrases.

THE RED DOT

EPISODE 29

PREMIERED: 12/11/91 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Nine-to-five risks turning into nine to life at Pendant Publishing. After Elaine gets George a job there as a manuscript reader, he has sex with the cleaning woman on his desk. George tells Evie, "It's important you never breathe a word...what with Clarence Thomas and everything." As thanks for the sex, George regifts a cashmere sweater he originally gave Elaine that was marked down from \$600 to \$85 because of a small red dot. The cleaning woman spots the spot and gets him fired. Meanwhile, Elaine is dating her co-worker Dick, a recovering alcoholic who falls off the wagon when he accidentally downs a vodka and cranberry juice at the office Christmas party. An inebriated Dick returns to Pendant, and Elaine, Jerry and George cower beneath a desk. "It's 'Cape Fear!'"

Elaine shouts. **GUEST STARS:** Richard Fancy (Pendant boss Mr. Lippman), David Naughton (Dick), Bridget Sienna (Evie) **PUTTING THE K INTO BOUQUET:** Odorless Hennigans whisky: "The no-smell, no-tell Scotch" as Kramer says in a fake TV ad. **IT'S OFFICIALLY SEX:** "When you kiss," say Elaine and George. Not so, says Jerry: "It's when the nipple makes its first appearance." **RATING:** ★★★★★ Captures the complete Costanza: cheap, devious and relentlessly horny.

THE SUBWAY

EPISODE 30

PREMIERED: 01/08/92 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Day-trippers Elaine, George, Jerry and Kramer take different subways. Elaine, attending a lesbian wedding (she's best man), explains to a horrified passenger: "I may hate men...but I'm not a lesbian!" George meets an attractive woman. Jerry sits across from a flabby, naked man. Kramer overhears a racing tip. The train stalls, and Elaine misses the wedding. George goes to a hotel room with the stranger, who manacles him to the bed and robs him of his money (\$8) and clothes. Jerry bonds with the naked guy, and they spend the afternoon at Coney Island. Kramer's horse comes in, so he treats the gang to a meal at Monk's. **GUEST STARS:** Ernie Sabella (Naked Guy), Barbara Stock (Stranger-Robber) **ATTENTION MUST NOT BE PAID:** Jerry calls George Biff, for the "Death of a Salesman" character, whom Jerry considers

"the biggest loser in the history of American literature." **CHILDHOOD TALES:** George was taunted as a child because his mother was the only one in the neighborhood "who was worse-looking than Hazel," the '60s sitcom character. **RATING:** ★★ Bats .500, with Jerry's and Kramer's stories striking out but victimized George and frantic Elaine hitting home runs.

THE PEZ DISPENSER

EPISODE 31

PREMIERED: 01/15/92 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George is dating a dour pianist, Noel, and invites Jerry and Elaine to her recital. Bad move. Jerry slyly places a Tweety Bird Pez dispenser on Elaine's knee during the somber recital, and she laughs like a hyena. George, who has orchestrated a "preemptive breakup" in order to get leverage in the relationship, becomes the dumptee when Noel learns that his friend ruined her concert. Kramer joins the Polar Bear Club and dreams up a year-round eau-de-suntan called the Beach and pitches it to Calvin Klein. Meanwhile, Jerry unhappily takes part in a drug intervention for a fellow comedian. **GUEST STAR:** Elizabeth Morehead (Noel) **SEIN LANGUAGE:** "I have no hand," whines George, whose devotion to Noel weakens his grip on their relationship. **TALKING POINTS:** When on the phone with a woman, George writes down helpful topics to bring up, as in, "I'm very good at going in reverse in my car." **RATING:**

★★★ A stellar marriage of two of the show's hallmark traits: immaturity and jaw-dropping selfishness.

THE SUICIDE

E P I S O D E 3 2

PREMIERED: 01/29/92 **WRITER:** Leopold
DIRECTOR: Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry ponders the etiquette of responding when his comatose neighbor's girlfriend comes on to him. Jerry tells Gina he'll "run away like the Three Stooges at the end of every movie" if Martin (a failed suicide) ever comes out of the coma. Meanwhile, Elaine—fasting and getting progressively nuttier—agrees to accompany George to a psychic (he thinks he has ESP). Rather than risk the bad luck that Rula the psychic predicts for him (all together now: "Is it lupus?"), George lets Kramer take his vacation in the Cayman Islands. The K-man in the Caymans has a ball, cavorting with *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit models and playing nude backgammon with Elle Macpherson.
GUEST STARS: Gina Gallego (Gina), C.E. Grimes (Martin), Wayne Knight (Newman), Mimi Lieber (Rula) **HELLO, NEWMAN:** In his on-screen debut, the postal employee immediately establishes his evil credentials by threatening to rat

on Jerry for dating the coma guy's gal. **DIALOGUE YOU WON'T HEAR ON ER:** Dr. J makes his diagnosis: "It isn't too bad...it's not like a Sunny Von Bülow coma." **RATING:** ★★★
Now we know exactly how self-serving and insensitive these people are capable of being. You need a Newman to establish that it's possible to sink even lower.

THE FIX-UP

E P I S O D E 3 3

PREMIERED: 02/05/92

WRITERS: Charles, Pope

DIRECTOR: Cheronos **STORY:** Elaine's friend, splurge 'n' purge Cynthia, is looking for "somebody who just has to appreciate being with me because he's so desperate." Enter George. Elaine pitches him to Cynthia, and Jerry pitches Cynthia to George. They're both dubious, but the two end up having sex in George's kitchen. Cynthia soon reports that she may be pregnant; George is so



Elaine goes from "see ya" to "feed ya" with a beau (Edward Penn) in episode 28.

grateful for proof that he's not shooting blanks ("My boys can swim!") that he offers Cynthia unconditional support. She's not pregnant after all, but she is so impressed with George that she wants to be with him—until she sees how he eats.

GUEST STAR: Maggie Jakobson (Cynthia)

THE SACAMANO CONNECTION: Kramer's unseen

THE GOTHAM GUIDE TO GOOD MANNERS

We've watched Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer for nine years, witnessing thousands of social interactions among themselves, countless New Yorkers and others. It has been a cavalcade of faux pas, each one instantly nailed by some self-appointed arbiter of postmodern manners. Here's a handy guide to gracefully navigating the *Seinfeld* world.

- Don't double-dip the chip you already bit. (episode 57)
- Scoop small food such as corn niblets or peas with your fork. Don't prong them one at a time. (105)
- If a guest brings food, such as a loaf of bread, to your dinner party, serve it. (115)
- Don't degift (take back something you gave), regift (give away something you received), issue an uninvite or noninvitation (to someone you hope won't attend your function) or overthank (by calling with a day-after thanks if you said thanks the night before). (115, 29, 156, 103)
- Don't buy a faulty item as a gift just because it's cheap—the recipient will notice. (29)
- You need only keep a thank-

- you card for two days after receiving it, unless you have a mantle. (85)
- Never stare at cleavage (it's too risky). Think of it as looking at the sun: Get a sense of it, then look away. (54)
- Never term a friend's relationship "hot and heavy" unless he or she has given you permission to do so. (115)
- Be sure to ask a woman her name before you make out with her. (58)
- Even if you know her name, don't make out during "Schindler's List." (79)
- After sleeping with a woman, you must date her for at least three weeks. (88)
- Don't order the same breakfast as your date. It's just one small step up from the couple that dresses alike. (78)



- Romance does not mean sharing your toothbrush. (100)
- Doctors, dentists: Do not sully the clinical atmosphere of your waiting room with magazines such as *Penthouse*. (99)
- Don't refer to little people as midgets. (77)
- The longer you know someone, the shorter you have to wait for him or her on the street. (137)
- When in a movie theater, observe the empty "buffer-zone seat" between you and the person beside you. (112)
- Spare a square in the rest room. (73)
- Don't pee in the shower at the health club. (78)
- And for goodness' sake, don't remove a TV GUIDE from someone's home—it may be part of a collection. (71)

FLUBBER IS...

buddy Bob Sacamano supplies the crowd with a gross of crummy condoms. **JERRY...SPRINGER?** Jerry gets in a slapping fight with George; George gets in a slapping fight with Kramer; Elaine gets in a slapping fight with Jerry. **RATING: ★★★★★** Outrageous juvenilia crossed with creepy coitus, a broken blue condom and barfing between courses. What's not to love?

THE BOYFRIEND

E P I S O D E 3 4
O N E H O U R

PREMIERED: 02/12/92 **WRITERS:** David, Larry Levin **DIRECTOR:** Cheronex
STORY: Jerry meets ex-New York Mets star Keith Hernandez at his gym, and they become pals. But then Hernandez starts dating Elaine, and Jerry doesn't know who to be more jealous of. Kramer and Newman hardly share Jerry's ardor for the guy: They've hated Hernandez, they say, since he spit on them after a 1987 game. Jerry can explain: a second spitter! Hello, slow-motion reenactment. Meanwhile, George tries an unemployment-insurance scam on the Department of Labor's hard-boiled Mrs. Sokol. **GUEST STARS:** Rae Allen (Mrs. Sokol), Keith Hernandez (as himself), Knight (Newman) **INSIDER TRAITING:** "We've parodied almost all the films I've ever done," says Knight, who played a character named Numa Bertel in "JFK." **SEIN POST:** The first, full-bodied "Hello, Newman" is uttered in this, the first hourlong episode. **RATING: ★★★★★** The "JFK" parody, with even a "magic loogie," is so brilliant, we sniff a conspiracy.

THE LIMO

E P I S O D E 3 5

PREMIERED: 02/26/92 **WRITERS:** Charles, Marc Jaffe **DIRECTOR:** Cheronex
STORY: In one of their biggest stretches to date, George and Jerry

unwittingly impersonate members of the master race in order to abscond with an airport limousine. Along the way, the vehicle picks up two neo-Nazis, Eva and Tim. Thinking that George is her Fuhrer, Eva offers up her blondness to him. George is tempted. She may be a Nazi, but she's "kind of a cute Nazi." Kramer decides Jerry and George are CIA operatives who have infiltrated the Aryan party. **GUEST STARS:** Peter Krause (Tim), Suzanne Snyder (Eva) **ESTELLEPHONE:** George is so excited to be in a limo that he calls his mom. **GO TWO HEIL:** In his monologue, Jerry says there are two kinds of movie-Nazi salutes: the "regular" *heil* and the "casual, around the office" *heil*. **RATING: ★★★★★** Lots of laughs about fascists? We salute you.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

E P I S O D E 3 6

PREMIERED: 03/04/92 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Jason Alexander
STORY: Jerry and Angela meet cute: She hits a parked car and drives off; he witnesses it, chases her down and dates her. But then babelicious Becky, the damaged car's owner, shows up, and Jerry decides to bust the felon. He quickly drops the idea when Angela says, "I'll pluck all your body hairs out with my teeth." So he pays for Becky's car repair himself. George's cravenness erupts when he's confronted by the husband, Michael, of the woman he has been boinking (under his dinosaur sheets). Their affair started when Robin sneezed and he said, "God bless you." The hubby threatens to sew George's behind to his face. George flees town, hitting the road with fellow wuss Jerry. **GUEST STARS:** Joseph Malone (Michael), Melinda McGraw (Angela), Helen Slater (Becky) Ann Talman (Robin) **SEIN POST:** This is the only episode that Alexander directed. **LOVE HURTS:** Kramer has a seizure

COMING TO VIDEO...

CATCH IT...

taking a bus?") Neither car is in the space, but neither will get out. Darkness descends. Paralysis ascends. Mulishness has met its match. **GUEST STARS:** Lee Arenberg (Mike), Jay Brooks (Sid) **BRAGGING RITE:** George points out one of his few talents: parallel parking. "I wish you could make a living out of parallel parking." **SEIN LANGUAGE:** The "vault" shows up when Jerry promises to keep Kramer's secret that Mike thinks Jerry's a phony ("I'm putting it in the vault"), but the safe busts open when Jerry confronts Mike. **THE MOUTH ON HER!** George says Elaine's messing with his rearview mirror got him "discombobulated." "Like you've ever been bobulated," she replies. **RATING ★★** Two cars stuck in the street. Like roadkill.

THE KEYS

E P I S O D E 3 9

PREMIERED: 05/06/92 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry makes Kramer return his spare keys after he breaks "the covenant of the keys," to wit: You don't use them to party in the bedroom with a girl called Gucci. This sets off a round-robin of key exchanges, with everyone making and breaking alliances like a clique of junior high school girls. Kramer realizes he has been using Jerry's apartment as a way of avoiding his own squalid reality. So he decides to follow his passion—acting—and head west. "You're not really going to California, are you?" asks George. "Up here," responds Kramer, pointing to his head, "I'm already gone." He ends up on *Murphy Brown* as Candice Bergen's latest catastrophic secretary. **GUEST STAR:** Candice Bergen (Murphy Brown) **I READ THE TABS, THEREFORE I AM:** Kramer destroys George by asking if he has any reason for getting up in the morning. "I like to get the *Daily News*," George bleats. **RATING: ★★★★★** Divinely twerpy behavior by one and all.

whenever he hears the voice of *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart. **RATING: ★★** Occasional sparkling lines, but this hit-and-run themed episode is more hit-and-miss.

THE LETTER

E P I S O D E 3 7

PREMIERED: 03/25/92 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry is ambivalent about his jealous girlfriend, Nina Armstrong, and dumps her twice: once just for being a drag, and the second time for plagiarizing Neil Simon's "Chapter Two" in a love letter. Too bad the rest of the gang is still mixed up with the Armstrong family. Kramer, George and Elaine get Yankees box seats through Nina's dad. He stops by their seats and asks Elaine to take off her Baltimore Orioles cap, but Elaine, plucky little snit that she is, refuses and gets ejected. **GUEST STARS:** Catherine Keener (Nina), Justine Johnston (Mrs. Armstrong), Elliott Reid (Mr. Armstrong) **HEAD CASE:** Kramer, hit in the noggin by a batted ball, has X-rays taken, "but they were all negative," he insists. Then he calls Elaine Carol and George Mike. **RATING: ★★** Curving, curving...foul. Elaine's impudence can't redeem the dreary Nina.

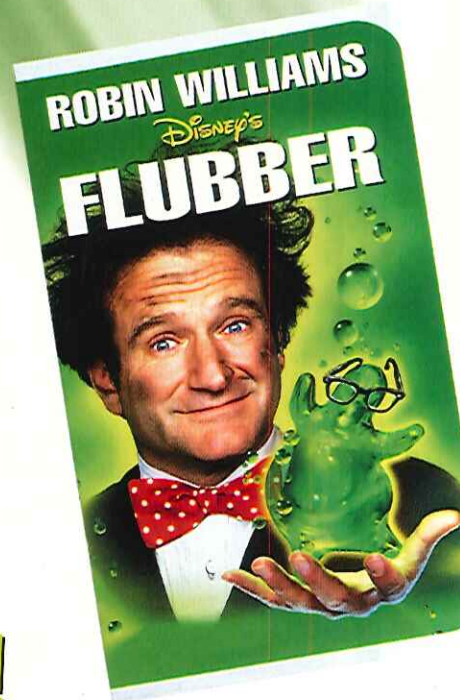
THE PARKING SPACE

E P I S O D E 3 8

PREMIERED: 04/22/92 **WRITERS:** David, Greg Daniels **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** What story? George has a parking space standoff with another obstinate driver, Mike, for a prime spot across the street from Jerry's building. Both belligerents are planning to watch boxing on Jerry's TV. Passersby kibitz on who has rights to the spot: George, who was backing in, or Mike, who pulled up. (Sid, a local grandpa, asks George, "Why don't you start

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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

Elaine

Are little girls across America dying to grow up to be Elaine Benes? Gosh, we hope not. Brash, sarcastic, seemingly smart (IQ is 145, by her own account), Elaine makes some of the stupidest choices in lovers. And since she's incapable of sustaining a friendship with a woman, her social circle revolves around ex-beau Jerry (she says they had sex 37 times when they were dating—and she always faked it) and his bumbling pals.

Yet you have to admire her spunk. A size 4 lady with a plus-size mouth, Elaine has little interest in making fans. She takes on the Soup Nazi and dons a Baltimore Orioles cap—twice—in the owner's box of Yankee Stadium. And she's just ever so slightly nicer than the rest of the gang of four, showing signs of—yikes!—empathy every now and then.

Unlike Jerry, Elaine doesn't accept the *Seinfeld* universe unquestioningly. She's drawn—briefly—to a parallel world where the guy-pals are literate as well as considerate. Occasionally she takes Jerry to task on his self-absorption: "Sometimes when I think you're the shallowest man I've ever met, you somehow manage to drain a little more out of the pool." Once she even whined, "What kind of life is this?" Here is the answer.

NICKNAMES: Lainie, Nip, the Queen of Confrontation

THE EARLY YEARS: Who would have thunk it? Elaine's a closet blue-blood whose résumé would seem more at home in *Frasier*. Born in Towson, Maryland (a

suburb of Baltimore), she attended the finest boarding schools on the eastern seaboard, competed in equestrian events and came out at a debutante ball. Her disapproving father is cranky novelist Alton Benes. One payoff to her background: In ethnic New York, she projects "shiksappeal."

WHAT SHE SEES IN THE MIRROR: Something special

WHAT OTHERS SPOT: "Pretty woman, kind of short, big wall of hair, face like a frying pan" (George)

TRADEMARK MOVE I: Responds to unexpected news by yelling, "Get out!" followed by a shove strong enough to push over men twice her size.

TRADEMARK MOVE II: Walking, talking, munching at the same time

TRADEMARK MOVE III: A swooning coquettishness when anyone desirable flirts with her

A FEW OF HER FAVORITE THINGS: Botticelli shoes, cherry Binaca breath spray, Today contraceptive sponge

PET PEEVES: Yapping dogs, regifters, low talkers, close talkers, high talkers, miniplex multitheaters ("like a room where they bring in POWs to show them propaganda films")

ABSOLUTELY HATES: People who smoke, people who wear fur

MOST USEFUL TRAIT: Ability to agree with Jerry

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: Dancing at a J. Peterman company party, a terrifying apparition that makes her underlings totally lose respect for her

RUNNER-UP: Sending out a Christmas card with a photo that reveals too much, i.e., her nipple.

MOST GULLIBLE MOMENT: Swallowing Jerry's assertion that the original title of *War and Peace* was *War, What Is It Good For?*

WORST APTITUDE: Driving

JOB ARC: Moved to New York City in 1985 to work as manuscript reader for Pendant Publishing. Personal assistant to eccentric millionaire Justin

Pitt. Writes and edits blurbs for the J. Peterman catalog and was, for a while, company president.

SMARTEST CAREER MOVE: Waxing poetic about clothing when she bumps into J. Peterman on the street during a rainstorm

SEXUAL PECCADILLOES: Doesn't like uncircumcised penises ("no face, no personality...like a Martian"); does a spiral move with her tongue when she kisses

THE ONES LEFT BEHIND: Men pining for Elaine include NBC executive Russell Dalrymple, who skipped town to save whales for Greenpeace to win her love; and Newman, who may go postal for her one day.

LOVE OF HER LIFE: Scary as it may sound, it might have been Jerry.

SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Marry a doctor, particularly one actually licensed to practice medicine



The real J. Peterman catalogue?

Classic horseman's duster protects you, your rump, your saddle and your legs down to the ankles.

Because it's cut very long to do the job, it's unintentionally very flattering. With or without a horse.

Although I live in horse country, I wear this coat for other reasons. Because they don't make Duesenbergs anymore.

The J. Peterman Coat (Nº. JLD1000). High-count cotton canvas outer shell, adjustable cuffs; snap closures at legs. Drawstring waist. Nine pockets. Corduroy collar. Price: \$184.

Made in Kentucky. Men's sizes: XXS, XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL. Colors: Natural or Black. Pls. specify.



Hemingway's Cap. He probably bought his in a gas station on the road to Ketchum, next to the cash register, among the beef jerky wrapped in cellophane. Or maybe in a tackle shop in Key West.

I had to go to some trouble to have this one made for you and me but it had to be done. The long bill, longer than

I, at least, ever saw before, makes sense.

The visor: deerskin; soft and glareless and unaffected by repeated rain squalls. The color: same as strong scalding espresso, lemon peel on the side, somewhere in the mountains in the north of Italy.

Ten-ounce cotton-duck crown. 6 brass grommets for ventilation. Elastic at back to keep this treasure from blowing off your head and into the trees. Sizes: M, L, XL.

Hemingway's Cap (Nº. JLD1658). Price: \$35. (He probably got change from a five when he bought the original.)



"Pembs." Something odd in horologist's shop in Amsterdam.

Had to have it.

"Can't sell at any price." Maddening.

Nine years later. A shop in Bath filled with love letters, dried ferns, photographs of boys gone to war, wooden cameras. And under some ivory capeskin opera gloves, partially hidden, this watch.

This replica identical to the original: a delicate leather strap enclosing a smallish pocket watch. Worn on the wrist or suspended from the neck on a chain, for deft, ladylike time checks.

A lovely thing, resonant of an earlier, more-thought-given-to-each-little-thing epoch.

It also held a secret. An inscription on the back read:

Gloucester Education
Committee
Perfect Attendance
10 years
Margaret "Pembs" Hayward
1911-1920

"Pembs," I later learned, was descended from the twelfth-century earl of Pembroke. (Debrett's confirmed it. "Pembs" herself much preferred to keep it quiet.)

Tallulah Bankhead would have killed to be so innocent.

Pembs Watch (Nº. JLD5386). Replica of turn-of-century lady's timepiece, worn on wrist or as a pendant. Price: \$95. Leather strap, brass case and chain. Japanese movement. Quartz. 1-1/4" diameter face. Chain 38" long. Engravable back. (Make it good.) Imported.



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S E A S O N

4

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This was the Superman of *Seinfeld* seasons, the stuff of which comic legends—and encyclopedias of catchphrases—are made. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

It was a pivotal year in many ways, ending in triumph when the show finally won its first and only best-comedy Emmy. This was also the year *Seinfeld* finally moved (in midseason) to a high-profile slot on Thursdays, groomed to replace *Cheers* as that show prepared for its spectacular exit. So much to live up to, so much accomplished.

If you have a list of favorite episodes—who are we kidding? If you're reading this, you must—chances are excellent that more than a few aired during this remarkable run of instant classics. These are the episodes you would take to a desert island. They never grow old.

One gem after another, regularly confronting the most squeamish of subjects with gleeful abandon. Three such jewels: a contest for self-control, to be "master of my domain," which tackled a touchy TV taboo with ingenious delicacy and escalating hilarity; the outing, with Jerry and George assumed to be gay ("I've been outed. I wasn't even in!" the thin, single and neat Jerry exclaims); the car with terminal B.O.

Such a curious obsession with the body this show has: Elaine's bared nipple on a Christmas card, the authenticity of guest star Teri Hatcher's breasts, the difference between a nose pick and a scratch, the splenectomy contaminated by a rogue Junior Mint.

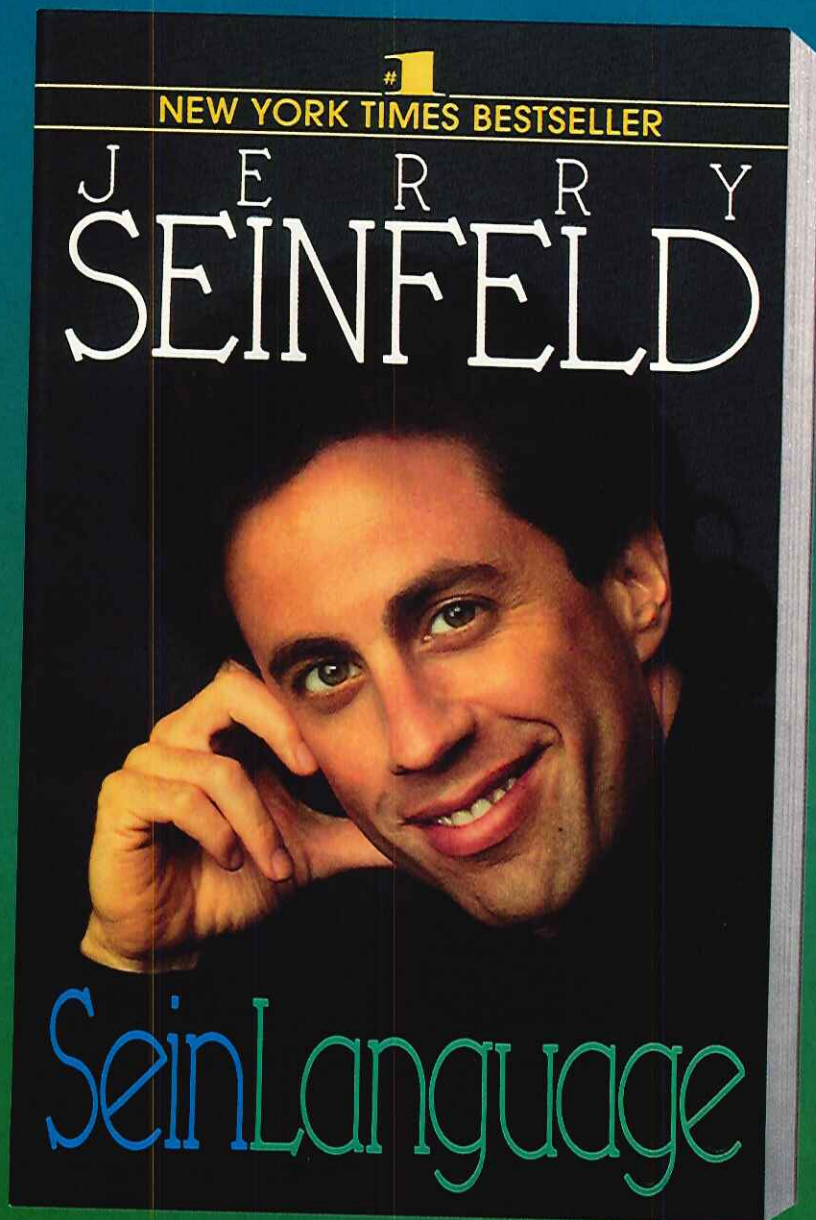
Once met, never forgotten: Mulva, whose real name (Dolores) also rhymed with a body part; Marla, the virgin who slept with John F. Kennedy, Jr.; the bubble boy; George's ill-fated Susan, who endured a calamitous first year in this gang's company.

The season began with Kramer in Hollywood and ended with the filming of the pilot for *Jerry*, the show about nothing that Jerry and George pitched to NBC all year. *Jerry* didn't make the cut. *Seinfeld*, on the other hand, passed with flying colors.



JOHN JASCHKE

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a reason to go
on living.**



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THE TRIP, PART ONE

EPISODE 40

PREMIERED: 8/12/92 **WRITER:** Larry Charles **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** With George in tow, Jerry heads to Los Angeles for a *Tonight Show* gig—and to search for Kramer, who slips his screenplay, "The Keys," to Fred Savage and a girl he meets at an audition. When she shows up dead with his script in hand, the L.A.P.D. finger Kramer as the Smog Strangler. Backstage at *The Tonight Show*, George annoys L.A. *Law*'s Corbin Bernsen ("Boy, do I have a case for you guys to do") and *Cheers*' George Wendt ("Enough with the bar already..."). On the show, Jerry bombs, thanks to the hotel maid who tossed his stand-up notes. Meanwhile, the L.A.P.D. puts out an A.P.B. on Kramer. To be continued.... **GUEST STARS:** Fred Savage, Corbin Bernsen, George Wendt (as themselves) **STAR SCHMUCK:** George gushes about meeting the two stars backstage. Jerry's response? "You've got a piece of toilet paper on your shoe, there." **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL:** Behold the deliciously hard-boiled Smog Strangler gumshoes. ("Any witnesses?" "Just the trees, Johnny, just the trees.") **RATING:** ★★ Good lines, but Elaine's absence and Kramer's loner act make us feel 3,000 miles away.

THE TRIP, PART TWO

EPISODE 41

PREMIERED: 8/19/92 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Reasonably sure Kramer is not the Smog Strangler, George and Jerry try to clear his name. Over a pay phone, police agree to take them to the station, but the two can't even say where they are. (George to a passerby: "Excuse me, where are we?" Reply: "Earth.") The cops find them and, en route to the station, stop a guy from breaking into a car and throw him in back. George and Jerry let themselves out but leave the door ajar, and the collar (who turns out to be the real Smog Strangler) gets away. Kramer is arrested but freed when the murderer claims another victim, prompting joyous jigs, with the three singing, "The murderer struck again!" **GUEST STAR:** Clint Howard (Smog Strangler) **THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING:** Kramer: "I met a girl." Jerry: "Kramer, she was murdered!" Kramer: "I wasn't looking for a long-term relationship." **SEIN POSTS:** Marty Rackham, one of the cops, will return in episode 68 as Elaine's exclamation-point-avoiding boyfriend, Jake Jarmel. **RATING:** ★★ Fish-out-of-water fun. An improvement over Part One.



THE PITCH AND THE TICKET

EPISODE 42
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 9/16/92 **WRITER:** Larry David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** After two guys from NBC suggest Jerry develop a series, George suggests a show about nothing. Elaine goes to Europe with her psychiatrist boyfriend, Dr. Reston, who has forgotten to renew a prescription for unbalanced patient Joe Davola. Jerry runs into Joe at NBC and enrages him by mentioning a Kramer party to which Joe isn't invited. George leaves the NBC meeting insisting the show not compromise its nothingness, then asks out NBC exec Susan Ross. At

Jerry's, Kramer welcomes Susan by throwing up on her. George and Jerry get the green light from NBC but are offered a piddling \$13,000 for the pilot. George, knowing Ted Danson gets \$800,000 per episode, seethes. **GUEST STARS:** Heidi Swedberg (Susan Ross), Peter Crombie ("Crazy" Joe Davola), Bob Balaban (NBC president Russell Dahymple), Stephen McHattie (Dr. Reston) **BUT HE'S NOT CRAZY:** Joe Davola is a real showbiz exec Crombie later met at a party. **SUDDENLY SUSAN:** Newcomer Swedberg didn't know who she would be dating: "I think of myself as odd, so I thought it must be Kramer. But when he threw up on me, I thought, 'How is this going to work?'"

CHALLENGE PROOF: FORTY GUIDE. STYLIST: DAVID WHITFACRE/HELLER. HAIR AND MAKEUP: MARTIN PRETORIUS. CLOTHING: HARRIS. TOP: JACQ'S WEST; DEL L'ATO

"THE VISIBILITY ON SEINFELD IS UNBELIEVABLE. I WAS AT THE WAILING WALL IN JERUSALEM, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN [I HEAR] 'UNCLE LEO!' I THOUGHT, 'JESUS, NOT AT THE WAILING WALL.' IT'S SACRILEGE." —*Len Lesser (Uncle Leo)*

of his way to entertain a fan and 2) having to sign autographs with a personal comment. The authentic pet peeves of an in-demand comic? **SMART WOMAN, FOOLISH CHOICES:** George's priority: make good time on the road or have sex? He shrugs off a horny Susan. **RATING: ★★★★★** The totally un-P.C. package is a gift.

THE CHEEVER LETTERS

EPISODE 46

PREMIERED: 10/28/92 **WRITER:** David, Elaine Pope, Tom Leopold **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Finally, George and Jerry start working on their sitcom pilot but get nothing done because there are too many distractions. When Elaine scolds secretary Sandra for talking Jerry's ear off, the girl quits, and Jerry reluctantly agrees to meet her to set things right. Cut to his bedroom, where Sandra talks dirty about her panties; Jerry tries to, also, but his comment (see page 21) makes her flee. Kramer, who lost his box of Cubans in the cabin fire, heads for the Cuban embassy to try to finagle more. After George tells Susan's parents about the fire, a cleanup crew recovers a box containing love letters between John Cheever, the famous writer and—surprise!—Susan's dad. **GUEST STARS:** Warren Frost (Mr. Ross), Lisa Malkiewicz (Sandra), Grace Zabriskie (Mrs. Ross) **MR. MANNERS:** Talking dirty in bed is OK, as long as it's the woman's idea and she's more aggressive. **RATING: ★★** The plots take a turn for the bizarre, giving up some humor in return.

THE OPERA

EPISODE 47

PREMIERED: 11/04/92 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Kramer scores tickets for the gang to "I Pagliacci," an opera about a tragic clown, and events leading up to the show reach a grandioso

pitch. First, Elaine discovers that her new boyfriend Joey—later revealed to be "Crazy" Joe Davola—has a shrine to her. Desperate to leave his apartment, she "maces" him with cherry Binaca. Opera time cometh, and with Joe and Susan (who can't make it) out of the picture, the crew has two extra tickets. George and Kramer ineptly try to scalp them, and Elaine and Jerry stand in line until Joe crashes the scene—dressed as Pagliacci.

GUEST STARS: Swedberg (Susan), Crombie ("Crazy" Joe) **JERRY AT HIS MOST ANIMATED:** When Elaine complains they're going to miss the overture, Jerry hoofs a priceless soft-shoe version of the Bugs Bunny "overture" theme. **RATING: ★★★** The story's told on a high scale, but a lot of the individual notes are strained.

THE VIRGIN

EPISODE 48

PREMIERED: 11/11/92 **WRITERS:** Peter Mehman, Peter Farrelly, Bob Farrelly **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Just when

her boss. She dumps George, but when Mr. Sitcom Writer tries to pick up a girl in a bar, he's shot down. **GUEST STARS:** Jane Leeves (Marla), Ping Wu (Ping) **DEFINING MOMENTS:** Are George and Susan officially a couple? Jerry's sample litmus test to George: "Is there any Tampax in your house?" **RATING: ★★★★★** The commitment noose tightens nicely around George's neck, and Jerry and Marla are cute making out in the closet.

THE CONTEST

EPISODE 49

PREMIERED: 11/18/92 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** When George's mother, Estelle, catches him doing you know what (and falls, requiring hospitalization), the four bet who can put off masturbation the longest. But temptations arise. John F. Kennedy Jr. joins Elaine's gym class. A nude gal parades around in the building across from Jerry's (prompting Kramer's money-slapping, "I'm out!"). George, visiting his mom in the hospital, watches a woman-to-woman sponge bath through a curtain. Marla the virgin wants to do it with Jerry—before being disgusted by news

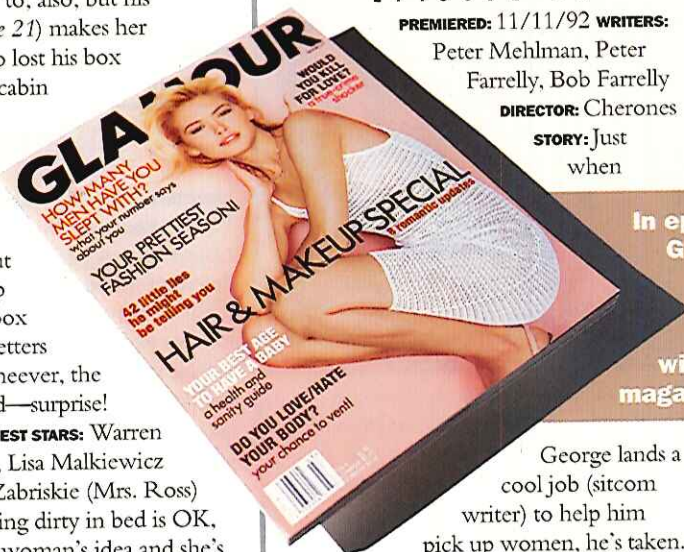
of the contest. **GUEST STARS:** Estelle Harris (Estelle Costanza), Leeves (Marla) **TAC-FUL RESPONSE:** When a hospitalized Estelle asks George to get her food, he tosses her his Tic Tacs so as not to miss the sexy sponge show.

Says Harris: "Jason just happened to have a box of Tic Tacs in his pocket and threw it on the bed. I just looked at it and laughed for a half hour." **SEIN LANGUAGE:** Unveils "master of your domain" and its variations ("king of the county, queen of the castle," etc). **RATING: ★★★★★** One of the Old Masters in the *Seinfeld* gallery.

THE AIRPORT

EPISODE 50

PREMIERED: 11/25/92 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Heading home after one of his gigs, Jerry and Elaine learn there are two seats on the next flight: one



In episode 49, George has "hand" in his relationship with a Glamour magazine.

George lands a cool job (sitcom writer) to help him pick up women, he's taken.

But if he dumps Susan, she'll have his show canned. Jerry is intrigued by Marla, a professional closet organizer who's still a virgin. Jerry and George, meanwhile, prepare for a big meeting with NBC brass on their pilot. They order Chinese food, but delivery boy Ping swerves to miss a jaywalking Elaine and runs into a parked car. The meeting goes well, although not for Susan, who is fired after George kisses her in front of

in first class, the other in coach. Naturally, Jerry puts dibs on first class, enjoying comfy slippers, Tuscan wines and Tia, a gazelle of a model. Meanwhile, Elaine's wedged next to a jerk and browbeaten by flight attendants. On the ground, George and Kramer experience myriad mishaps trying to pick Jerry and Elaine up, including George's tangling with a felon and Kramer's sneaking onto a plane to collect a debt from an old roommate. In the end, George is taken for a ride. **GUEST STARS:** Jennifer Campbell (Tia), Scott Burkholder (Felon) **WISH YOU WERE HERE!** Jerry and Elaine ask the skycap for tipping tips for three bags. He says \$15. They give \$10. He puts through two bags and sends the third (Elaine's, of course) to Honolulu. **SEIN POSTS:** The scary dude who stinks up the lavatory before Elaine gets in is *Seinfeld* writer Larry Charles. **RATING:** ★★★★★ The two-class plane society is a sublimely satisfying target, and the humor soars right off the map.

THE PICK

E P I S O D E 5 1

PREMIERED: 12/16/92 **WRITERS:** David, Marc Jaffe **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Like all 4-year-olds, this show exhibits a curiosity about bodily functions. Namely, whether digital-nasal penetration is wrong and "nippular" exposure on your Christmas card is ever right. George, who previously likened mounting the stairs to Susan's apartment to walking to his execution, now whines ceaselessly about losing her. When she takes him back, they're shown climbing the stairs in what turns out to be the beginning of the long walk to her death scene. Kramer discovers his fragrance, the Beach, has been stolen by Calvin Klein, who persuades Kramer to become an underwear model. "His buttocks are sublime!" gasps C.K. **GUEST STARS:** Campbell (Tia), Swedberg (Susan), Wayne Knight (Newman), Nicholas Hormann (Calvin Klein) **LET'S GET PHYSICAL:** Physical comedy gems: Kramer's underpants scene, Jerry's attempt to keep Tia and Kramer separated, Elaine settling George's harangue over not getting a Christmas card by rubbing his head to her chest. **RATING:** ★★★★★ On any other show, this would all be in bad taste.

THE MOVIE

E P I S O D E 5 2

PREMIERED: 1/06/93 **WRITERS:** Steve Skrovan, Bill Masters, Jon Hayman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** It's a bad sign when Jerry's stand-up act feels as interminable as the movie "Punchline." Or

"Rochelle, Rochelle," for that matter, "a young girl's strange erotic journey from Milan to Minsk," which is where the four find each other after their own strange journey through this episode. The confusion finally ends when Elaine, tired of the movie's witless dialogue, loudly mutters, "Gimme a break." You may have the very same thought. **GUEST STAR:** Barry Diamond (Buckles, a bad comic) **BUT WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT ME?** Kramer on Jerry: "A big head and flared nostrils." George on Kramer: "A horse face, big teeth, and a pointed nose." George on Elaine: "Kind of short, big wall of hair, face like a frying pan."



Episode 51 finds Jerry trying to nip Elaine's stress over nipple exposure: "Everybody's got 'em!"

Elaine on Kramer: "A tall, lanky doofus with a bird face and hair like the bride of Frankenstein." **RATING:** ★ Don't bother saving a seat for this one.

THE VISA

E P I S O D E 5 3

PREMIERED: 01/27/93 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George asks out immigration lawyer Cheryl, who laughs at all his jokes. Worried that she'll like Jerry's "show" better than his, he tells Jerry not to be funny so that she doesn't "walk out on George's show." But Jerry gets guffaws from Cheryl, who turns out to be delivery boy Ping's cousin. She provides a temporary reprieve from his lawsuit against Elaine, which Ping pongs back into play when Cheryl finds out George, Jerry and Elaine are big phonies. This lands luckless Babu back in Pakistan, swearing vengeance on "very, very bad" Jerry, who didn't pass along Babu's visa renewal application. **GUEST STARS:** Brian George (Babu Bhatt), Maggie Han (Cheryl), Wu (Ping) **OUT OF LEFT FIELD:**

Kramer's hilarious riff on how he "plunked" Joe Pepitone for crowding the plate, then punched Mickey Mantle at a fantasy baseball camp. **RATING:** ★★★★★ You are watching a good episode, a very, very good episode.

THE SHOES

E P I S O D E 5 4

PREMIERED: 02/04/93 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** When George's therapist (now there's a potential gold mine) tells him she doesn't think the script for the NBC pilot he's writing with Jerry is funny, the show almost levitates: "How's this for criticism?" he says, fuming. "You stink!" But then the story of George sabotaging the pilot by staring

at the cleavage of Russell Dalrymple's daughter brings it back down with a thud. The bright spot is Jerry's comparison of cleavage to the sun: "You don't stare at it, it's too risky. You get a sense of it and look away." Elaine eventually saves the day—and the pilot—by offering fancy footwear to Jerry's girlfriend, Gail, and a reciprocal "cleavage peek" to Dalrymple. **GUEST STARS:** Balaban (Dalrymple), Anita Barone (Gail) **LOOK, UP ON THE FRIGIDAIRE!** It's Superman, as Jerry's man of steel magnet joins the set for the first time. **RATING:** ★ Better to just get a sense of this one and look away.

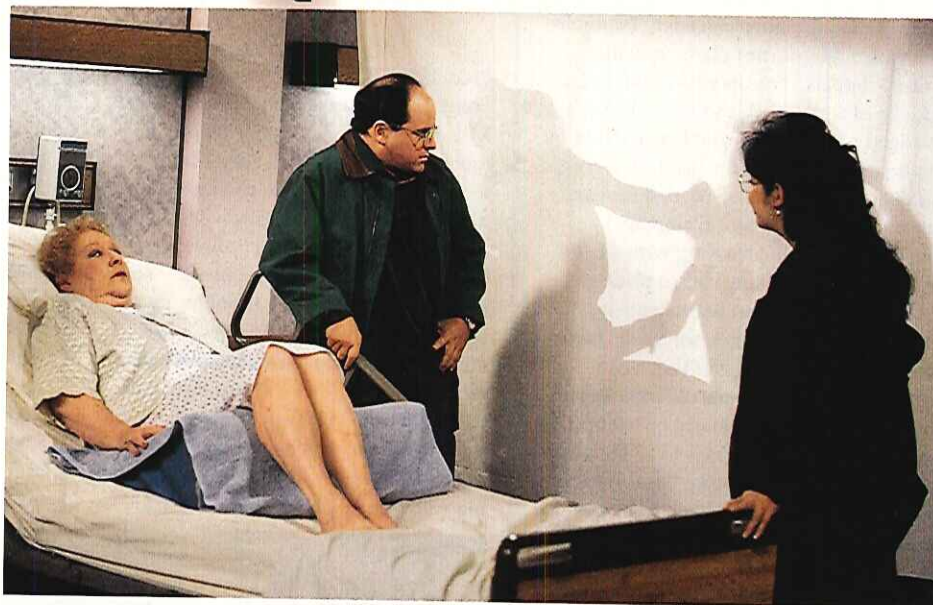
THE OUTING

E P I S O D E 5 5

PREMIERED: 02/11/93 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Elaine tries to play a joke on a woman eavesdropping on her conversation with Jerry and George by pretending the guys are gay. The woman, Sharon, turns out to be a student reporter doing a story on the "single, thin and neat" Jerry. During a subsequent interview,

George and Jerry "bicker like an old married couple" and deal with the consequences in a P.C. world. "I've been outed," Jerry cries. "I wasn't even in!" Meanwhile, George tries to use the news to get rid of girlfriend Allison. When the story hits the *New York Post*, Estelle Costanza falls off a toilet in shock. Visiting her in the hospital, George finds himself moved by a guy-guy sponge bath in the next bed. Not that there's anything wrong with that. **GUEST STARS:** Paula Marshall (Sharon), Kari Coleman (Allison), Harris (Estelle) **WORDS YOU'LL NEVER HEAR THE REVEREND JERRY FALWELL SAY:** "Not that there's anything wrong with that," the now famous P.C. disclaimer, is uttered eight times.

RATING: ★★★★★ Not much wrong with this episode either.



It's no contest when, in episode 49, George is faced with either feeding his mother or watching sponge-worthy women.

THE OLD MAN

EPISODE 56

PREMIERED: 02/18/93 **WRITER:** Charles, Bruce Kirschbaum **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** After signing up for do-gooder work with old people, Elaine discovers that the elderly Mrs. Oliver has a goiter the shape of a football: "You'd think they'd mention, 'Oh, by the way, this woman almost has a second head.'" George signs up (his charge is Ben), and so does Jerry, whose old man Sid inquires, "Are you gonna kill me?" Well, almost. Kramer and Newman pilfer Sid's record collection, rip out his dentures in a scuffle and grind them up in the garbage disposal. Then they lose him altogether on the way to the dentist. Sid's most redeeming feature is a Senegalese housekeeper who speaks no English, which, along with a desire to "dip my bald head in oil and rub it all over your body," is one of George's new dating requirements. **GUEST STARS:** Bill Erwin (Sid), Robert Donley (Ben), Lanei Chapman (Housekeeper), Tobin Bell (Ron the record store clerk), Knight (Newman), Edie McClurg (voice of Mrs. Oliver) **COUNTERFEIT CULTURE:** Because this very New York show is filmed in Los Angeles, someone forgot that garbage disposals were—and still are—practically nonexistent in Manhattan. **RATING: ★★★★★** We get to see what George and Jerry will probably be like in 50 years, with the bonus of a goiter gal who greased Gandhi.

THE IMPLANT

EPISODE 57

PREMIERED: 02/25/93 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Are they real

or Mammorex? Jerry is smitten with a babe from his health club, but when Elaine informs him that "they're fake," he drops Sidra. George hasn't gotten to second base with the woman he's dating, but then Jerry and Kramer convince him that flying home with Betsy for a funeral is an opportunity to get some consolation-guy action (Kramer: "It's like 10 dates in one shot!"). Elaine revises her Silicone Sidra theory when she accidentally cops a feel in the sauna, prompting Jerry to ask Sidra out again. George stars at the funeral—until a brawl erupts over his double-dipping a chip. **GUEST STARS:** Teri Hatcher (Sidra), Megan Mullally (Betsy) **THE SEINTANIC VERSES:** Kramer swears he has seen Salman Rushdie at the gym. When the guy says he's a writer and his name is Sal Bass, that clinches it. "Bass" versus "Salman-Salmon": Sounds fishy! **CHEAP TRICKS:** George's half-price airfare scheme crashes when, unable to produce a death certificate, he tries to use a Polaroid of himself next to the coffin. **LET US SPOIL THE SUSPENSE FOR YOU:** Sidra: "By the way, they're real, and they're spectacular." **RATING: ★★★★★** The sex and death theme is top-heavy with jokes and terrific lines. Spectacular.

THE JUNIOR MINT

EPISODE 58

PREMIERED: 03/18/93 **WRITER:** Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry meets a woman in a grocery store's produce section (all those melons) but can't remember her name. She mentions it rhymes with a female body part. George's guesses: Celeste? Aretha? Mulva? Elaine

is obsessed with the male anatomy, specifically, formerly fat Roy's. The artist is in the hospital, and he has lost weight pining over Elaine. Kramer's interested in Roy's guts, too: He and Jerry watch his spleen operation, which is complicated when fight leads to flight and a Junior Mint lands in Roy's vital organs. **GUEST STARS:** Sherman Howard (Roy), Susan Walters (Mystery Woman) **CUTTING UP:** Seinfeld ad-libs a line about watching them "slice this fat bastard up" and nearly breaks out laughing, but he covers it with his coffee cup. **CHIVALRY ISN'T DEAD:** Jerry: "Once you've made out with a woman, you can't ask her her name." **RATING: ★★★★★** Pushes the envelope, but the envelope pushes back; ends limply when you realize the name-guessing business is based on a mispronunciation.

THE SMELLY CAR

EPISODE 59

PREMIERED: 04/15/93 **WRITERS:** David, Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** A valet-parking attendant with B.O. from hell infests Jerry's car with "The Beast." The aroma clings to Elaine's hair, making boyfriend Carl wretch. George has his own troubles: He fears he's a sexual stink bomb when he sees former flame Susan holding hands with a woman. But that ends after Susan's lover, Mona, a golf instructor, sees Kramer's swing with a broom. Unable to cure his car or sell it, Jerry tries to entice a thief. **GUEST STARS:** Swedberg (Susan), Nick Bakay (Carl), Viveka Davis (Mona) **PREGO!** Elaine's stylist claims the last-gasp treatment for hair stench is tomato sauce. Says Elaine:

"Sauce me." **ADAM SMITH COSTANZA:** Outraged by a \$2 rewinding charge, George heeds Kramer's advice that it'll be cheaper to keep the videotape "Rochele, Rochele" an extra day and rewind it himself. The tape is stolen. George's bill: \$98. **RATING:** ★★ Doesn't pass the smell test.

THE HANDICAP SPOT

EPISODE 60

PREMIERED: 05/13/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** An engagement party for "The Drake" and "The Drakette" requires a gift, prompting a trip to the mall in Frank Costanza's Mercury. Jerry, George, et al. park in a handicap spot (Kramer's idea) and, after buying a big-screen TV, find that a wheelchair-bound woman forced to use a regular spot has been injured. Mall turns to maul as an angry crowd awaits whoever stole the space. Jerry & Co. slink away; the crowd trashes the car instead. But the TV gets delivered just as the Drake announces the couple's breakup. Love springs eternal, though: A hospital romance blooms when Kramer visits the injured woman, Lola. Meanwhile, George

campaigns to retrieve the TV: "It's not hers, it's theirs. Once there's no theirs, it's not hers, it's ours." **GUEST STARS:** Harris (Estelle), John Randolph (Frank; his scenes were reshot for syndication with Jerry Stiller), Rick Overton (the Drake); Elizabeth Dennehy (the Drakette), Donna Evans (Lola) **LOOK FOR:** Kathy Kinney, later of *The Drew Carey Show*, as an angry bystander. **WHEELY FUNNY, JERRY:** He asks, "What is the handicap-parking situation at the Special Olympics?" **RATING:** ★★★ The "cripple joke," the cheapest form of comedy, is managed—nimbley.

THE PILOT

EPISODE 61
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 05/20/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** At last, it's pilot time for *Jerry*. Kramer auditions for his role under the name Martin Van Nostrand, but aborts mid-tryout because of a bathroom emergency. Elaine's on the job market, too: Incensed that the new coffee-shop

owner hires only women with large breasts, she applies for a job in order to get turned down and stir up some EEOC trouble. But NBC exec Dalrymple would tell you she's amply endowed: He's still bewitched by his glimpse in episode 54. George, too, suffers a distraction: He's sure he has cancer, God's punishment for his impending success. In the end, Dalrymple joins Greenpeace and his replacement, Rita, sinks *Jerry*. **GUEST STARS:** Jeremy Piven (*Jerry's* George), Larry Hankin (*Jerry's* Kramer), Elena Wohl (*Jerry's* Elaine) Balaban (Dalrymple), Anne Twomey (Rita) **ENCORE, ENCORE:** Several characters from shows past are seen watching *Jerry*, including the Drake and Drakette, "old man" Sid, Marla, Cheryl, Ping, the Bubble Boy and his parents, Calvin Klein, Sidra, Sal Bass, etc. **A LITTLE LONG FOR AN EPITAPH:** Told he's pouring on the cancer agony too thick, George says, "I live my whole life in shame! Why should I die with dignity?" **RATING:** ★★ Dud subplots, and we see only flashes of how inspired a *Jerry* variation on *Seinfeld* could be.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN NEW YORK

LARRY DAVID HELPED PUT THE FUN IN DYSFUNCTIONAL

My thoughts when the show began were, 'I hated myself and I didn't trust anyone,'" says Larry David, cocreator of *Seinfeld*. "Now that the show is ending, I believe that I have the same thoughts: 'I hate myself and I don't trust anyone.'"

Never has self-hatred become so beloved. As head writer, David deftly guided misanthropy to new depths and watched *Seinfeld's* ratings soar.

Although he left the series in 1996 to pursue writing and direct feature films (his first, "Sour Grapes," opened April 17), David has informally consulted on matters *Seinfeldian*. He returns for one last "pop-in" as cowriter of the series' final episode on May 14.

As the oft-told story goes, it was during a late-night trip to a New York grocery store in 1988 when David and fellow stand-up comic Jerry Seinfeld, looking for an idea to pitch to NBC, decided funny could come right from aisle 6. Nothing in life, in fact, was too trivial from which to draw comedic gold. Name an episode or character and David rattles off its origin: Justin Pitt? Based on a woman he once chauffeured in his New York salad days.

"The Stock Tip"? Just like Jerry, David once lost a small fortune on a pick. "The Contest"? Yes, he and a friend

actually staged such a game (he won, "hands down, or hands up," he says).

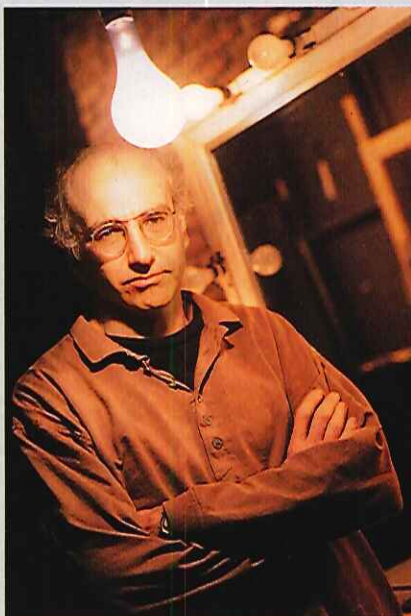
It's also no secret that David is the inspiration (or desperation) behind George. Call George an idiot and "I really take it personally, as if they were talking about me," he says.

But hasn't it all been an idiot's delight? David tasted success on ABC's *Fridays* and as a writer on *Saturday Night Live* before *Seinfeld* gave him fame and wealth poor George could only dream about. Since the show's inception, David has even gotten married and had two kids. And still this self-loathing guy hasn't changed?

"I really don't think so, unfortunately," he says. "I was hoping to change, believe me. It didn't work out."

For one brief moment, however, David does allow himself to indulge in the sort of nostalgia that *Seinfeld* so often

shuns. Coming back for the final episode has been like "visiting an old friend: Awkward at first, then it was like I never left," he says. "Eventually, they had to throw me out."



5

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Now that we got the joke, we couldn't get enough—and neither could the TV industry, which, in addition to the best-comedy Emmy, handed Emmys to Larry David (for writing "The Contest") and Michael Richards (as Best Supporting Actor) for last season. The show had arrived. Chosen to anchor NBC's all-important Thursday lineup, it would vault from 25th place in the ratings to third, trailing only the venerable *60 Minutes* and former time-slot rival *Home Improvement*.

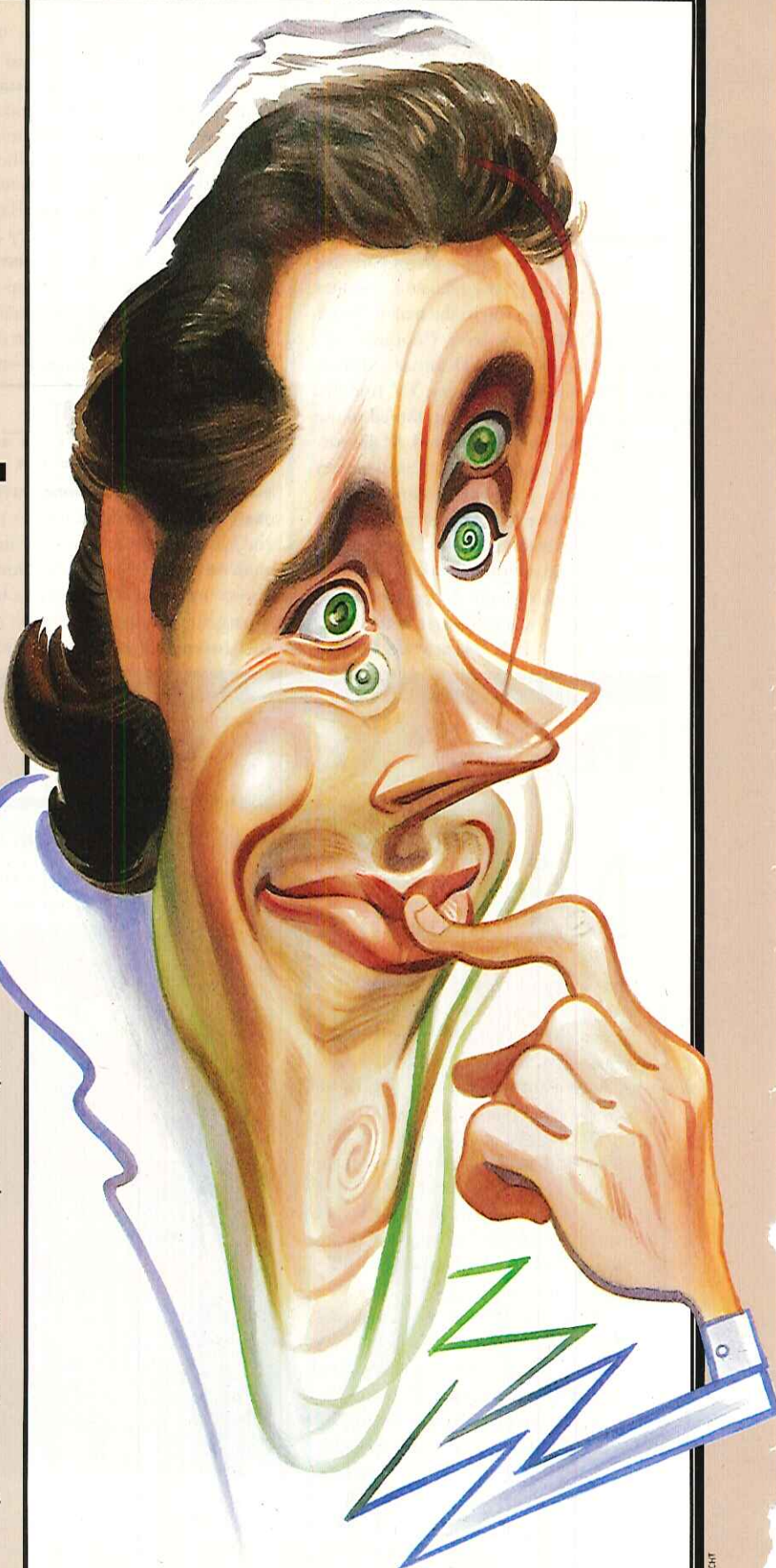
No contest (to borrow a metaphor) which of TV's top shows was the freshest. Still on a creative roll, Jerry wore a puffy shirt on the *Today* show, threw up for the first time since June 1980 and learned that Elaine had "faked 'em all" during their time together.

And so it dawned on a growing legion of fans that as *Seinfeld* navigated its way through pop culture, no sacred cow would go unslaughtered. Envelopes were pushed long before poor Susan would die licking them.

With a raging case of political incorrectness, the show made sport of the deaf, religion (notably Latvian Orthodox) and Native-American sensitivities (courtesy of a cigar store Indian), and it put bleeped curse words in the mouth of a little boy (years before *South Park*'s Cartman). We watched Elaine tangle with a woman in the ladies' room who "didn't have a square [of toilet paper] to spare." And we learned more about the secret male shame of "shrinkage" than we might have wished.

Meanwhile, George suffered through one of his most memorably miserable years, moving back with his hilariously dyspeptic parents, Frank and Estelle, even getting grounded when they discovered he'd had sex in their bed.

In the inspired season finale, Jerry helps George reverse his downward spiral: "If every instinct you have is wrong, then the opposite would have to be right." He changes his coffee-shop diet, he stops lying about his pathetic life, and the stage is set for a legendary career with the New York Yankees.



JOHN KASSOUT

Gee Jerry, we hate to see you go.

Now where are your 30 million fans
gonna find another attractive,
funny, charismatic,
world-class comedian...



EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND

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THE MANGO

E P I S O D E 6 2

PREMIERED: 09/16/93 **WRITERS:** Lawrence H. Levy, Buck Dancer **DIRECTOR:** Tom Cherones **STORY:** If sex be the food of love, then everyone spends 22 minutes on a diet. George's girlfriend, Karen, gives him "the tap" during sex. Elaine admits she "faked 'em all" with Jerry. Karen's orgasmic moans while eating risotto cause George to worry that she's faking it, so he can't perform. But after he bites a mango, his member moves. The earth doesn't when Jerry gets a second shot at Elaine. **GUEST STARS:** Lisa Edelstein (Karen), **MR. MANNERS:** "Tub is love." Translation: If you really like her, you'll scrub the bathtub before she comes over. **RATING:** ★★★★★ All the essential ingredients, while brilliantly lampooning erotic duplicity.

THE PUFFY SHIRT

E P I S O D E 6 3

PREMIERED: 09/23/93 **WRITER:** Larry David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** With only \$714 in the bank, George must move back home. He declines Jerry's offer of cash, since "borrowing money from a friend is like having sex: It completely changes the relationship." Out for dinner with his



Hat trick: George wears his cap like Elaine's cool mimbo in episode 73.

parents, George bumps into a hand-model agent who "discovers" his endowment, hands that Kramer calls "smooth, creamy, delicate yet masculine." Jerry and Elaine dine with Kramer and his new gal, low-talking Leslie, a clothing designer. After nodding at her inaudible murmurs, Jerry finds himself wearing her frilly pirate shirt creation during his appearance on *Today*. George ends his career when he

turns into a fried Captain Hook. **GUEST STARS:** Bryant Gumbel (as himself) Estelle Harris (Estelle), Wendel Meldrum (Leslie) **DADDY DEAREST:** Introduces Jerry Stiller, who replaces John Randolph as Frank Costanza, a retired importer of religious articles. **MOMMIES DEAREST:** We find out George's mom has never laughed and Jerry's mom has never touched a natural body of water. **AT LEAST HE DIDN'T GO BLIND:** George learns the tragic saga of Ray McKegney, the hand-model king who was "not master of his domain." Says George: "Don't worry, I won a contest." **RATING:** ★★★★★ Wildly imaginative, with a message about vanity.

THE GLASSES

E P I S O D E 6 4

PREMIERED: 09/30/93 **WRITERS:** Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George, who says his specs were stolen at the gym, enlists Jerry and Elaine to help choose new ones. Elaine gets bitten by a dog in the shop, and Jerry is distracted when George says he saw girlfriend Amy kissing Jerry's cousin Jeffrey outside. Left alone, George chooses huge Gloria Vanderbilt rims. When Elaine

asks her foreign-born doc if she needs a shot, he insists, "No shot, dog bite. Woof, woof. Not bang, bang." **GUEST STARS:** Anna Gunn (Amy), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Michael Saad (the Doctor) **DOG DAYS:** Elaine, convinced she has rabies, foams at the mouth. **BLIND MAN BLUFFED:** George swaps specs with a sightless man. **RATING:** ★★ An aimlessly nasty episode; even the dog gets whacked.

THE SNIFFING ACCOUNTANT

E P I S O D E 6 5

PREMIERED: 10/07/93

WRITERS: David, Jerry

Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry's accountant, Barry Profit, sniffs suspiciously, so the gang suspects he has a coke habit. "What kind of snow blower did you get us mixed up with?" cries Newman, who, with Kramer, has money tied up with Profit. The trio tries to entrap the accountant, ABSCAM-style. George talks his way into a bra-salesman job (he has "wanted to be around brassieres" since age 14) but

gets fired for "feeling up" his boss. **GUEST STARS:** John Kapelos (Barry Profit), Wayne Knight (Newman), Christa Miller (George's boss) **ARGUMENTS OVER NOTHING:** Jerry and Newman bicker about what days of the week have "feel." "Tuesday has no feel.... Friday has a feel." **STUPID HUMAN TRICKS:** Kramer smokes and drinks beer simultaneously, to hilarious effect. **RATING:** ★★ Doesn't have the seamlessness to achieve the whole cloth of greatness.

THE BRIS

E P I S O D E 6 6

PREMIERED: 10/14/93 **WRITER:** Larry Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry and Elaine are asked to be godparents by Myra and Stan, and Elaine must find a *mohel* to preside over the *bris* (circumcision rite). After sifting through MODELS and MOTELS in the Yellow Pages, she recruits a very unorthodox *mohel*. Even less kosher is what Kramer sees when visiting the baby in the hospital: A "pigman," or half-man, half-porker. George's version of the Promised Land—a parking space right outside the hospital—is ruined when a suicide leaper smashes in his roof. **GUEST STARS:** Jeannie Elias (Myra), Charles Levin (the *Mohel*), Tom Alan Robbins (Stan) **BACK STORIES:** We learn that Elaine was the belle of the ball at debutante parties and equestrian competitions. **MORE RELATIONSHIP RULES:** Jerry believes Myra and Stan are "level-jumping on our friendship" because he doesn't know them well enough to be godfather. Elaine agrees. **RATING:** ★★ George's raves are a riot; the ranting *mohel* is not. And the pigman subplot is just strange.


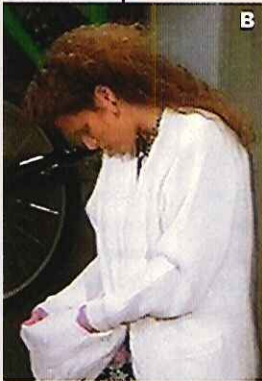


THE LIP READER

E P I S O D E 6 7

PREMIERED: 10/28/93 **WRITER:** Carol Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry goes gaga for Laura, a deaf lineswoman at the U.S. Open who can lip-read. George wants to employ her ability at a party, where he suspects his estranged girlfriend Gwen will reveal why she dumped George. But Laura lip-lapses, mistaking Gwen's offer to "sweep" for "sleep." Meanwhile, Elaine feigns deafness to shake off a chatty limo driver, until he gets a call to pick up Tom Hanks. Back at the Open, Kramer breaks "the ball barrier" but blows a career as ballman by careening into the top seed. **GUEST STARS:** Christopher Darga (Limo Driver), Linda Kash (Gwen), Marlee Matlin (Laura) **BACK STORIES:** We find out that Kramer has a deaf cousin. **RATING:** ★★★★★ Jerry, can you hear me? A funny farce about lack of communication.

PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR

From plot devices to character definers, *Seinfeld* style proved that on a show about nothing, appearances are everything. Here's a trip down the catwalk highlighting fashion moments that were integral to, well, the very fabric of the show.

	JERRY	ELAINE	GEORGE	KRAMER
THE LOOK	Nikes, button-downs, button-fly jeans ("One place in my wardrobe I do not need sharp interlocking teeth"; episode 37); relabels waists from 32" to 31". (113)	Moved from calf-length skirts, backpacks and flats to New York-style suits and heels. (Fortunately, has better taste in fashion than in men.)	Blue Nike's (white swoosh), Chinos, plaid shirts or Rugby pullovers. Keeps an old lift ticket on his jacket because "women like skiers" (48)	Owens melange of vintage bowling-style shirts, loose-fitting trousers and a babe-attracting jacket that he retrieved from his mother's boyfriend's apartment (26)
THE HAUTE ITEM	Bought expensive suede jacket (Kramer: "How much did you pay?" Jerry: "I paid what it cost") that was ruined in a snowstorm. (8)	Obsessed over Botticelli shoes that were annoyingly coveted by one of Jerry's girlfriends. (54)	Bought suit (on sale, of course) but discovered that the pants made a swooshing sound when his thighs rubbed together (76)	Modeled for Calvin Klein underwear ads (51). Need we say more?
THE FAUX PAS	Unknowningly agreed to wear a "puffy" shirt on the <i>Today</i> show (pictured, A) thanks to Kramer's "low talking" gal pal. (63) Runner-up: Sported "manfur" and European carry-all, a.k.a. purse. (160)	A Maryland native, had the balls to show up to the Yankees' owners box in an Orioles cap—and ends up getting thrown out of the game (37)	Adopted sweatpants look, much to Jerry's disgust: "You're telling the world...I can't compete in normal society. I'm miserable, so I might as well be comfortable." (61)	Wore jeans so tight, he couldn't get them off, even with help (D). Jerry: "You're gonna need the jaws of life to get out of those things." (125)
				
THE 'DO (OR DON'T)	Attempted to switch barbers because of a bad haircut; caught in barber/Newman tress-pionage plot. (69)	"She's a pretty woman, kinda short, big wall of hair..." says George; cropped locks early in season 8.	Continuous follicle fallout; briefly sported a toupee under the encouragement of "recovered" cancer patient Gary (C) (95)	Hair started taking increasing flight around episode 10; temporarily flattened because of overzealous showerhead (119)
THE ACQUISITION	An Armani suit doesn't come cheap when gifter Kenny Bania insists on a meal at Mendys (not just soup!) in exchange. (89)	Cashmere sweater, Christmas present from George, came with a catch: the red dot responsible for its marked-down status (B) (29)	Wore a sable trapper's hat that Elaine charged to her J. Peterman expense account; used it as a "leave-behind" in a woman's apartment to ensure a second date (134)	Inherited Jerry's ruined suede jacket (see Jerry's "Haute Item") and refused to return leather coat Jerry had previously given him (8)
THE RANG-UP	Annoyed with girlfriend for always wearing the same outfit, a habit deemed acceptable only for superheroes. (117)	Retail rancor: Kidnapped look-alike store mannequin (76); battled with Bameys over misleading mirrors (91); tried to put Putumayo out of business (146)	Confided to date he owned 40 pairs of underwear; wants to amass at least 360 pairs so he only has to do laundry once a year (9)	Although worried about low sperm count, wouldn't switch from briefs to boxers because "my boys need a house." (86)

THE NONFAT YOGURT

EPISODE 68

PREMIERED: 11/04/93 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Kramer invests in a yogurt store where the nonfat fluff melts everybody. But when Jerry and Elaine pack on the pounds, the yogurt becomes

suspect. Mayoral candidate Rudy Giuliani vows to clean up yogurt fraud, while Jerry and George encounter Lloyd Braun—an unctious aide to incumbent Mayor David Dinkins. Lloyd grew up with George and is as successful as Le Loser is not, until he takes up Elaine's campaign suggestion that New Yorkers wear name tags so the

city is a friendlier place. Then his career gets crossed off the ballot. **GUEST STARS:** Rudy Giuliani (as himself), Harris (Estelle), Peter Keleghan (Lloyd), Stiller (Frank) **VICE BLEEP:** In an uncharacteristic outburst, Jerry spouts obscenities. So does a little boy who copies the comic. Both are bleeped. **DROPPING NAMES:** Frank

"THE FIRST TIME I HIT GEORGE, WHICH WAS JASON'S IDEA, I HIT HIM RIGHT ON HIS BALD SPOT, AND THE WHOLE CREW JUST LAUGHED. SO THEN ESTELLE [HARRIS] ASKED, 'CAN I HIT HIM, TOO?' BUT THEY SAID, 'NO ESTELLE. ONLY ONE PERSON CAN HIT JASON AT A TIME.'" —Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)

Costanza barks out of nowhere that "Tommy Tune is a good dancer. He's very tall." **RATING: ★★** The crudeness of the bleeps demeans the episode's sharp wit.

THE BARBER

EPISODE 69

PREMIERED: 11/11/93 **WRITER:** Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry cuts ties with barber Enzo after the tonsorial tyrant gives him a dorky 'do. Kramer convinces Jerry to take up with Gino, who tames Kramer's coif. George interviews at a rest-stop supply company called Sanalac, but the interview leaves more questions than answers. He shows up for work anyway and is given "the Pensky file." Clueless, he sleeps a lot, goes to office parties and arranges the Pensky papers in an accordion envelope. **GUEST STARS:** David Ciminello (Gino), Knight (Newman), Antony Ponzini (Enzo) **JOY OF JOHNS, I:** Enzo and Gino love "Edward Scissorhands" but wonder how Edward copes on the toilet. **JOY OF JOHNS, II:** Jerry lets Newman use his bathroom, provided he goes "number one" and "flushes twice." **BACK STORIES:** High school dropout Kramer has a GED. **RATING: ★** The barber bit needs shearing.

THE MASSEUSE

EPISODE 70

PREMIERED: 11/18/93 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Elaine dates a great guy with two drawbacks: He hasn't vomited in seven years, and he has the same name as serial killer Joel Rifkin. George is attracted to Jerry's new amour, Jodi, a masseuse who despises him: "A woman who hates me this much comes along once in a lifetime!" Jodi sleeps with Jerry but won't massage him, explaining, "I don't submit to forcible massage." **GUEST STARS:** Anthony Cistaro (Joel Rifkin), Jennifer Coolidge

(Jodi) **BACK STORIES:** Jerry tells Elaine he hasn't thrown up since September 29, 1980. **FUTURE SHOCK:** Elaine jokingly suggests that Joel change his handle to "O.J. Rifkin." An eerily prescient moment. **RATING: ★★** A vividly amusing case study of love's labors lost through self-absorption.

THE CIGAR STORE INDIAN

EPISODE 71

PREMIERED: 12/09/93 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry buys Elaine a cigar-store Indian because he feels guilty about making her ride the subway back home from the Costanza's. (Claiming she needs something to read for the ride, she grabs a TV GUIDE, not suspecting that she has robbed Frank Costanza of Vol. 41, No. 31, from his collection.) Jerry's crush on Elaine's poker pal Winona, a Native American, is thwarted because she's offended by the cigar-store Indian. And Jerry offends a

Chinese mailman when he asks him for directions to the nearest Chinese restaurant. Jerry's retort: "If somebody asks me which way is



The Smog Strangler gets away as George is throttled by his hunger for these in episode 41.

Israel, I don't fly off the handle." **GUEST STARS:** Carissa Channing (Sylvia), Kimberly Norris (Winona)

THE LOSER CHRONICLES: George sleeps with furniture store clerk Sylvia in his parents' bed. His parents later find a prophylactic wrapper and ground him. **CELEB CAMEO:** Today's Al Roker **SEIN POST:** Kramer comes up with his idea for a coffee-table book about coffee tables. **RATING: ★★★★★** Equal-

opportunity knocking. And the GUIDE gag warms our hearts.

THE CONVERSION

EPISODE 72

PREMIERED: 12/16/93 **WRITER:** Bruce Kirschbaum **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** George falls for Sasha, who says they can't be together because it's against her religion, Latvian Orthodox. Sasha dumps him, throwing out a classic kiss-off: "I just don't feel ready to make a commitment yet. Maybe when I get back from Latvia." Jerry swoons for his neighbor, Tawni, but the ardor cools when Mr. Clean Freak discovers fungicide in her medicine cabinet. Yuck. Elaine wants to believe the podiatrist she's dating is really a doctor, but she's not sure he has the right credentials. And Kramer is on fire. A Latvian Orthodox nun has fallen hard for him, and he becomes convinced he carries the "curse of Kevorka, the lure of the animal." **GUEST STARS:** Kimberly Campbell (Tawni), Jana Marie Hupp (Sasha), Tom Verica (the Podiatrist) **SEIN LINES:** As he encourages her to order the lobster, George tells Sasha, "You know, you're the only woman I've never thought about the price." **BACK STORIES:** Both Jerry and George are left-handed. **LIP SERVICE:** Jerry actually has a convincing make-out scene with Tawni. **RATING: ★★** The Latvian Orthodox and fungicide storylines are priceless, but the Kevorka stretches thin.

THE STALL

EPISODE 73

PREMIERED: 01/06/94 **WRITER:** Charles **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry dates Jane, who won't "share a square" of toilet tissue with Elaine in the ladies' room. And Jane has an even bigger vice: She's Kramer's phone-sex pal, although she's offended when Jerry accuses her of talking dirty. While Jerry follows Jane's paper trail, Elaine gets quite cozy with Tony, her hunky "mimbo." George is also smitten with Tony, so smitten that he and Kramer jump at the chance to go rock-climbing with the outdoorsman. Unfortunately, Tony gets a mouthful of

rocks when George loses his grip. **GUEST STARS:** Dan Cortese (Tony), Jami Gertz (Jane) **SEIN POST:** Jerry sits at his computer in two scenes. He appears to be working on a spreadsheet. **THE FUNNIES:** Elaine brings Superman comics to Tony in the hospital. Jerry taunts Elaine, saying Tony may wind up looking like "Zippy the Pinhead." **ODDITIES:** Jerry has five locks on his door, but people come and go through that portal with ease. **RATING:** ★★ The sharing-a-square stuff just seems square.

THE DINNER PARTY

EPISODE 74

PREMIERED: 02/03/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** On the way to a dinner party, the four decide to stop for wine and cake to bring to the hosts. By evening's end, Elaine gets into at least one fight with Barbara and David, also on their way to the party, and has her toe crushed, all in the pursuit of babka; Jerry's 14-year-long no-vomit streak ends after he munches a bad black-and-white cookie; George, who had suggested bringing Pepsi and Ring-Dings, loses all his money and his new Gore-Tex coat; and Kramer gets hypothermia. Oh, and Kramer's car gets blocked in by a double-parking Saddam Hussein. And the quartet never makes it to the party. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Holton (David), Kathryn Kates (Counterwoman), Frank Novak (Clerk), Suzy Soro (Barbara) **WHY SHE DOES SHAMPOO COMMERCIALS:** Declares Elaine: "Nobody takes better care of their hair than me. You could serve dinner on my head." **IT'S NOT EASY BEING GEORGE:** He admits he's "a little afraid" of Elaine. **RATING:** ★★ Although the four are at their most annoying, this is one of the seminal "about nothing" episodes and thus deserves a minor perch in the pantheon.

THE MARINE BIOLOGIST

EPISODE 75

PREMIERED: 02/10/94 **WRITERS:** Ron Hauge, Charlie Rubin **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Here are the seemingly sane things that happen: Elaine is assigned to edit the work of novelist Yuri Testikov; Kramer knocks golf balls into the ocean; Jerry tells George's "it girl" Diane that George is a marine biologist to impress her; Kramer gives Elaine an electronic pocket organizer. Here's how everything is *Seinfeldized*: Elaine's beeping gizmo enrages Testikov, who flings it out a limo's window, hitting a woman, Corinne, who traces it back to Jerry, who traces it back to Elaine, who goes up to Testikov's

hotel room with a squealing tape recorder, which enrages him, making him fling it out the window and bean the same poor woman. Meanwhile, George and Diane come upon a beached whale and a crowd of concerned people. "Is anyone here a marine biologist?" Why, yes. George sticks his hand into the blowhole and pulls out a golf ball. **GUEST STARS:** Rosalind Allen (Diane), Carol Kane (Corinne), Knight (Newman), George Murdock (Testikov) **CLOTHES ENCOUNTER:** Jerry mourns the deterioration of his "best" T-shirt, Golden Boy: "Golden Boy is slowly dying. Each wash brings him one step closer. That's what makes the



No fruit for you! In episode 62, Jerry attempts to secure mangoes for fruit offender Kramer.

T-shirt such a tragic figure." **CAREER DAY:** George to Jerry: "Why couldn't you make me an architect? You know I always wanted to pretend that I was an architect." **RATING:** ★★★★★ As intricately interwoven as a great Russian novel, this is an existential *Seinfeld* masterpiece.

THE PIE

EPISODE 76

PREMIERED: 02/17/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** The nerve! Jerry's date, Audrey, won't taste his favorite apple pie. Then after he spots Audrey's restaurateur dad, Poppie, leave the men's room without washing his hands, Jerry refuses to eat Poppie's pizza pie (much to Audrey's chagrin). Next it's George who won't bite: On a job interview with a man who likes employees to take his suggestions, George is served a pie baked by a vengeful chef whom George once tricked out of getting a suit. And Elaine, spotting a clothing-store mannequin that looks just like her, absconds with it. **GUEST STARS:** Lane Davies

(boss MacKenzie), Reni Santoni (Poppie), Suzanne Snyder (Audrey) **X-MAS SHOPPING HINT:** George wears a size 40-short suit. **LAW AND DISORDER:** Jerry, claiming to be Elaine's lawyer, cites legal precedents *Windell v. Mahoney* and the Charlie McCarthy hearings. **RATING:** ★★★★★ It's a funny slice of life.

THE STAND-IN

EPISODE 77

DATE FIRST AIRED: 02/24/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** George decides not to dump girlfriend Daphne, not because he likes her but because an acquaintance has predicted that George will dump her. Jerry goes to the hospital to cheer up his friend Fulton, and when

the guy doesn't respond, Jerry assumes his comedy routine is weak. So he develops a whole new act guaranteed to slay the guy—which, unfortunately, it does. Kramer's suggestion to his diminutive pal Mickey that he put lifts in his shoes leads Mickey to be shunned by other little people. The social crime: "heightening." And Elaine goes out with a guy who, "how shall I put this...he took it out. It. Out." **GUEST STARS:** Michael Rivkin (Fulton), Karla Tamburrelli (Daphne), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **RATING:** ★★ The clever in-out bit is too little, too late.

THE WIFE

EPISODE 78

PREMIERED: 03/17/94 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Cherones **STORY:** Jerry finds a locket in a jacket that belongs to his dry cleaner. As a reward, the cleaner offers a discount to Jerry and his family, with Jerry's new girlfriend, Meryl, passing herself off as Mrs. Jerry (prompting Uncle Leo to tell the senior Seinfelds that Jerry has gotten married). Elaine gets mixed signals



Jennifer Coolidge

JODI

This pain-in-the-neck masseuse wouldn't rub Jerry down. (70)

Kim Myers

PAM

Jerry wasn't "gaga" over her—until Kramer was. (128)

Susan Walters

MULVA? DOLORES?

Her name escaped him; in the end, so did she. (58)

Gina Gallego

GINA

A boyfriend in a coma? Now that's not very polite. (32)

Danette Tays

NICKI

She's a definite "10." Too bad she fell for Elaine's beau. (123)

Karen Fineman

GWEN

This two-faced gal only looked good in the right light. (158)

DATE LINE, NBC

NEVER HAS A SITCOM GUY SEEN SO MANY WOMEN COME AND GO. START KICKING YOURSELF NOW, JERRY. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY. (TURN THE PAGE. THERE'S MORE!)

from Greg at the gym; he gives her an open-lip kiss but then wipes her water bottle before drinking from it. George is caught urinating in the health-club shower ("I was there! I saw a drain!"), while Kramer spaces out under a tanning lamp, leading to an embarrassing, minstrel-ish

entrance to his African-American girlfriend's family get-together. **GUEST STARS:** Courteney Cox (Meryl), Scott LaRose (Greg), Lesser (Uncle Leo), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen) **RATING:** ★★★ Fluid, but there are too many dry spells, and it's all a bit draining.

THE RAINCOATS

EPISODE 79
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 04/28/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross, David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cherones
STORY: Jerry's parents are visiting for a few days en route to Paris. It's bad timing for Jerry, who hasn't been with present amour Rachel for so long, he's starting to feel "backed up." It's even worse for Elaine, whose new "close talker" boyfriend Aaron seems obsessed with Jerry's parents. But it's great news for Kramer, who partners with Jerry's dad



Jami Gertz

JANE

Ladies room alert: She won't spare a square! (73)

Lori Loughlin

PATTY

She got Jerry to show his anger. He did. He dumped her. (151)

Melinda Clarke

ALEX

Removing his chest hair for her became a chore. (147)

Melanie Smith

RACHEL

Making out during "Schindler's List"? For shame. (79, 81)

Justine Miceli

NINA

She dated George, slept with Jerry and dumped both. (156)

Paula Marshall

SHARON

This reporter outed Jerry and George, then walked out. (55)

to sell Morty's beltless raincoats. Somehow, by show's end, Jerry and Rachel get caught by Newman making out during "Schindler's List," a lie lands George in Paris with an obnoxious kid, and Jerry's parents end up in the middle of the ocean face-to-face with the lunatic Costanzas. **GUEST STARS:** Sandy Baron (Jack), Harris (Estelle), Knight (Newman), Martin (Morty), Judge Reinhold (Aaron), Sheridan (Helen), Melanie Smith (Rachel), Stiller (Frank) **THE BALD TRUTH FROM GEORGE:** "Hey, believe me, baldness will catch on. When the aliens come, who do you think they're going to relate to?" **GREAT**

MINDS SHRIEK ALIKE: Both Frank Costanza and Kramer have an inordinate fear of mice. **ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Jerry's mother does a "Hello, Newmannnn." **RATING: ★★½** A bit too long to sustain the hilarity, but the "Schindler's List" make-out is a classic, and the Costanza madness is in wonderful bipolar high gear.

THE FIRE

EPISODE 80

PREMIERED: 05/05/94 **WRITER:** Charles

DIRECTOR: Cheronos **STORY:** George, invited to the birthday party of girlfriend Robin's son, causes a house fire, runs in a scream-

ing panic, bowls over toddlers, shoves old ladies with walkers and leaves them all to get braised in the blaze. (Luckily, the fire is extinguished by a giant clown shoe). George then explains all this as an act of heroism: "Because, as the leader, if I die, then all hope is lost." Elsewhere, other *Seinfeld*ians do get burned, this time by loud, ultrawired Toby, editor on Kramer's coffee table coffee-table book, who ruins Jerry's show by heckling him and earning him a disastrous *Entertainment Weekly* review. Jerry's revenge—heckling her while she works—leads to Toby's severing a pinkie toe, and Kramer



Christine Taylor

ELLEN

Jerry's parents think she's perfect. That can't be good. (140)

Kristin Bauer

GILLIAN

She's gorgeous, but those meaty paws! (129)

Marlee Matlin

LAURA

This U.S. Open lineswoman faulted while lip-reading. (67)

Lisa Deanne

CHRISTIE

Donning the same outfit for every visit? Tsk, tsk. (117)

Debra Messing

BETH

The "anti-dentite" made a tragic, biting remark. (125, 146)

Lauren Graham

VALERIE

She made him No. 1 on her speed-dial. Big mistake. (146)

courageously rushing it to the hospital in a Crackerjack box filled with ice. **GUEST STARS:** Melanie Chartoff (Robin), Veanne Cox (Toby), Dom Irrera (Ronnie), Jon Favreau (Clown) **AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS:** Prop-comic Ronnie stands in awe of Jerry going to Toby's office to heckle her: "You're like Rosa Parks. You opened the door for all of us." **RATING:** ★★ ★ Less clever than other episodes but hot nonetheless.

THE HAMPTONS

EPISODE 81

PREMIERED: 05/12/94 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Carol and

Michael's new baby means a weekend at the proud parents' summer house in East Hampton, a mooching offer nobody wants to refuse. Jerry hopes to rekindle his romance with Rachel, who has been off-limits since their "Schindler's List" make-out fiasco, while George expects to finally get up close and naked with new heartthrob Jane. Before too long, everybody has seen Jane topless except George, the baby is so ugly viewers lurch away as if felled by anthrax, and Rachel accidentally comes upon a nude, post-cold-swim George suffering from "shrinkage." **GUEST STARS:** Richard Burgi

(Ben), Lisa Mende (Carol), Steven Prutting (Michael), Smith (Rachel), Melora Walters (Jane) **TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT:** Jerry never has and never will wear silk underwear: "No, not for me—a little too delightful." **RATING:** ★ ★ The comedy strains, and George's episode-ending act of revenge is far too mean-spirited.

THE OPPOSITE

EPISODE 82

PREMIERED: 05/19/94 **WRITERS:** Andy Cowan, David, Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Cheronos **STORY:** Jerry opines, "If every instinct you have is wrong, then the opposite would have to



Jann Karam

SANDI

She was baited, then nearly switched, after not laughing at Jerry's jokes. (93)

Jennifer Campbell

TIA VAN CAMP

Jerry dated this model until she fingered him for "the pick." (50, 51)

Athena Massey

MELANIE

Pronging peas one at a time? *Puli-leeze!* (105)

Marita Geraghty

MARGARET

Dumped years ago by Newman. Ouch. (84)

Angela Dohrmann

DONNA CHANG

What, not Chinese? You're fortune's run out, cookie. (86)

be right." Lightbulb time. Soon, whatever George believes in his gut he should do, he does the opposite. A good woman, his dream job with the Yankees, his own apartment, they all come to pass. But Elaine's on another path: Inappropriate Jujyfruit behavior loses her a boyfriend and helps to deep-six the publishing house she works for (thus killing the coffee-table book of Kramer, who has just appeared on *Live With Regis & Kathie Lee*), and she's being kicked out of her apartment. "Can't you see what's happened?!" she cries. "I've become George!" **GUEST STARS:** Larry David (as the voice of

NAOMI KALTMAN FOR TV GUIDE. STYLIST: ALEX GUTIERREZ/HELLER. COOLIDGE: DRESS, VIVIANNE TAM/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, PRADA. MYERS: DRESS, SUSAN LAZAR/CURVE; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. WALTERS: DRESS, ANA MOLINARI/FRED SEGAL; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. GALLEGO: DRESS, KOSTUM/CURVE; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. TAYS: DRESS, VELVET/CURVE; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. EARRINGS, JENNIFER KAUFMAN. TIEBARK: DRESS, SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. GURTE: TOP, SHIRT, SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; BRACELET, JEN NIFER KAUFMAN. LOUGHUN: DRESS, KATHRINE HAMNETT/LISA KLINE; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. CLARKE: DRESS, EDUARDO LUCERO/LA; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. EARRINGS, JEN NIFER KAUFMAN. SMITH: DRESS, KATAYONE ADELL/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, GIANNI BARBATO/REVA K. MICELLE: DRESS, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. MARSHALL: DRESS, ST. VINCENT/CURVE; SHOES, RINALDI/REVA K. CARRINGS, JENNIFER KAUFMAN. TAYLOR: TOP, WILLIAM B./BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHIRT, KOSTUM; SHOES, CHARLES DAVID/BLOOMINGDALE'S. BAUER: DRESS, ELIZABETTA ROGANI/COURTUE LA; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. MATLIN: TOP, KATAYONE ADELL/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SKIRT, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, GIANNI BARBATO/REVA K. DEANE: DRESS, ANNARITA CELANO/CURVE; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. MESSING: DRESS, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. GRAHAM: DRESS, ANDREA POLCZ; TOP, RICK LESTER/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. KRAMER: DRESS, KUSZA/BLOOMINGDALE'S; SHOES, RICHARD TYLER/TRAFFICANTE. CAMPBELL: DRESS, EDUARDO LUCERO/LA; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. MASSEY: DRESS, ALONCO/NYCE; SHOES, DOLCE & GABBANA/MADISON. GERAGHTY: DRESS, ONLY HEARTS BY HELENA STUART/LISA KLINE; SHOES, CALVIN KLEIN/BLOOMINGDALE'S. DOHRMANN: DRESS, VIGAL AZOVEL/LISA KLINE; SHOES, STUART WEITZMAN. HAIR & MAKEUP: BRETT FREEDMAN/CELESTINE, SHARON GAULT/HELLER, SYLVIA VIAU/CLOUTIER, KALI/CELESTINE, HELEN JEFFERS/CLOUTIER, BARBARA FARMON/CLOUTIER, BETHANY KARLYN/HELLER.

George Steinbrenner), Richard Fancy (Lippman), Harris (Estelle), Regis Philbin and Kathie Lee Gifford (as themselves), Rackham (Jake), Smith (Rachel), Stiller (Frank) **SEIN POSTS:** Dedee Pfeiffer, later of *Cybill*, plays George's girlfriend, while a small part as a movie-theater manager is played by French Stewart, now of *3rd Rock From the Sun*. **REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DISASTERS:** When Kramer announces he's

going to be promoting his book on *Regis & Kathie Lee*, Jerry remarks, "I'll loan you my puffy shirt" (see episode 63). **RATING: ★★** The cleverness of this fifth-season ender and the thrill of watching George ride the glorious wave to what must inevitably become a disastrous wipeout, override some pretty predictable plotting. And seeing Regis and Kathie Lee get spit on is worth any amount of stars.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

George

He is the first out of a burning building, even if it means knocking down women and children. If he ever pays for anything, he goes to extraordinary lengths to make sure the recipient is aware of it.

He has no career to speak of, looks like "Humpty Dumpty with a melon head" and is dependent upon (although he loathes) his parents. Yet few women are good enough for the self-described "Lord of the Idiots."

George's most successful relationship began at JFK High School in Queens (class of '71), when he fell off a rope in gym class and landed on Jerry's head. Of his fictitious careers, architect and marine biologist are most impressive. His main pastime is sitting at Monk's discussing daily minutiae. After decades of failure, he finally hit upon a surefire recipe for handling daily challenges: listening to his instincts, then doing the opposite.

George is a self-pitying, egotistic, pathetic man. But next to him, don't we all look great? Maybe that's why Jerry keeps him around.

NICKNAMES: Georgie Boy, Boy George, George Bonanza, the Little Bulldog, Can't-stand-ya

THE EARLY YEARS: An only child, George grew up in a small but conflict-ridden house on Queens Boulevard in Flushing, where he honed his talent for parallel parking and developed an aversion to paying for parking (his parents liken it to frequenting hookers). Here he also learned how to face life's inevitable difficulties. "I come from a long line of quitters. I was raised to give up!"

WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR: A "short, stocky, slow-witted bald man"

WHAT OTHERS SPOT: See above.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: Toilet paper, superheroes, nose picking

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS: Having sex, eating and watching TV, preferably simultaneously; velvet; lesbians; the *Daily News* (his reason for getting up); bathroom stalls (not urinals); Gore-Tex jackets

HEROES: Mickey Mantle, man about town Art Vandelay

MOST USEFUL TRAIT: Ability to lie in any situation

PHOBIAS: Metal detectors, because he might step into another dimension; carrying pens in his pants pocket because they might puncture his scrotum; getting married

PET PEEVES: Including but not limited to atomic wedgies, shrinkage, reading, Seattle (the pesto of cities), yada, yada.

ANTISOCIAL ACTS: Double-dipping chips, eating eclairs from the trash, peeing in the health-club shower and on the wall of a parking garage

FAVORITE EROTICA: *Glamour* magazine

NOM DE PORN: If ever cast in an adult film, he would go by the name Buck Naked.

DREAM DATE: Marisa

Tomei (except she slapped him when she learned he was engaged, then hung up on him when he said he was free because his fiancée had died a few days ago).

PERCEIVED FATAL FLAW: "Women always think I'm nice. But women don't want nice."

LOVE OF HIS LIFE: Fiancée Susan met an untimely death after licking the glue on their el cheapo (at his insistence) wedding envelopes. Spent three nanoseconds grieving before going to get coffee at Monk's with his pals.

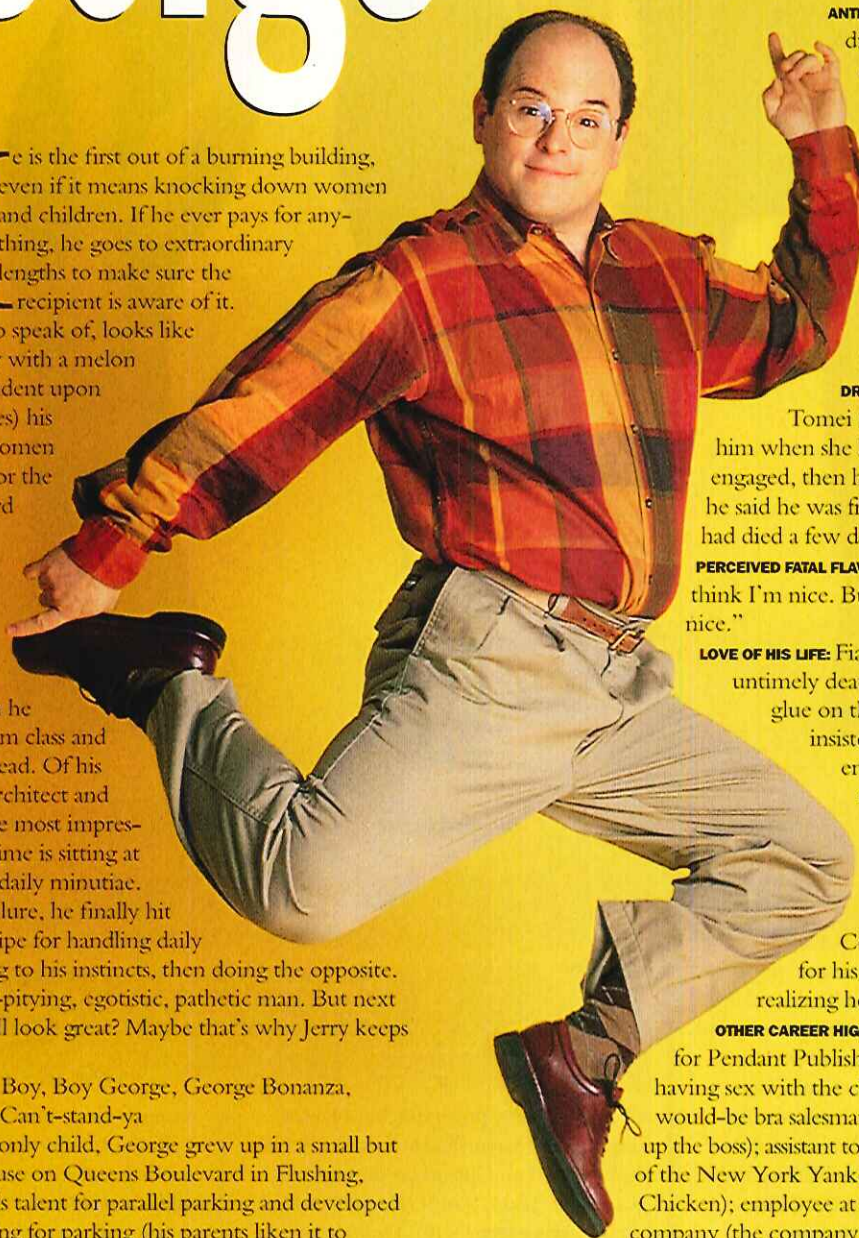
SMARTEST CAREER MOVE:

Continuing to show up for his real estate job after realizing he shouldn't have quit.

OTHER CAREER HIGH POINTS: Proofreader for Pendant Publishing (he was fired for having sex with the cleaning woman); would-be bra salesman (until he tried to feel up the boss); assistant to the traveling secretary of the New York Yankees (traded to Tyler Chicken); employee at a sporting-equipment company (the company eventually folded).

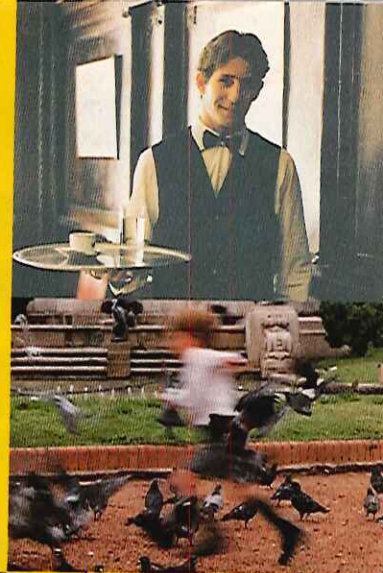
SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Own more than 360 pairs of underwear, so laundry day comes only once a year; have the upper hand in a relationship; get money without having to earn it

FINAL WISH: To die without dignity. After all, he's lived his whole life in shame.





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Now TV's top-rated comedy, supported by hot Thursday-night arrivals *Friends* and *ER*, *Seinfeld* marked another milestone with its 100th episode during its sixth season. In a special celebrating the occasion, here's how real Jerry described the decidedly un-*Friend*-ly world he created: "There have been some relationships that haven't worked out. Ambitions that were not fulfilled. Hopes dashed. Some property damage. Hurt feelings. I know one guy got deported. Physical injury. And all right, maybe even a death or two. But we've persevered. Because we're people. Real TV people."

Real funny TV people, who never encountered a situation that couldn't be turned into a farce. Witness this season's spoof of the O.J. Simpson Bronco chase and the season finale's Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan parody by way of Bette Midler's understudy. But as the show's tone got broader and wackier, critics began to wonder if *Seinfeld* had lost some of its original magic, a debate that would continue through the rest of its run.

Still, as *Seinfeld*'s universe expanded, we would welcome more oddballs who seemed to come and go by some cosmic whim: pesty comic Kenny Bania; Elaine's peculiar bosses, the fussily autocratic Mr. Pitt; and later the preposterous J. Peterman. Of all her many boyfriends, none would have the staying power of face-painting mechanic David Puddy, who would re-enter her romantic life with perplexing persistency.

And while George had his share of moments—donning a toupee (only to date a bald woman) and buying (so he thought) Jon Voight's car—this particular season belonged to Kramer, sculptor of pasta likenesses (the "fusilli Jerry" and the "macaroni Midler") and designer of the men's bra.

Call him Cosmo (the revelation of his first name was something of a media event). Call him ASSMAN (the ultimate vanity plate). Call him *Seinfeld*'s most incorrigible "real TV person."



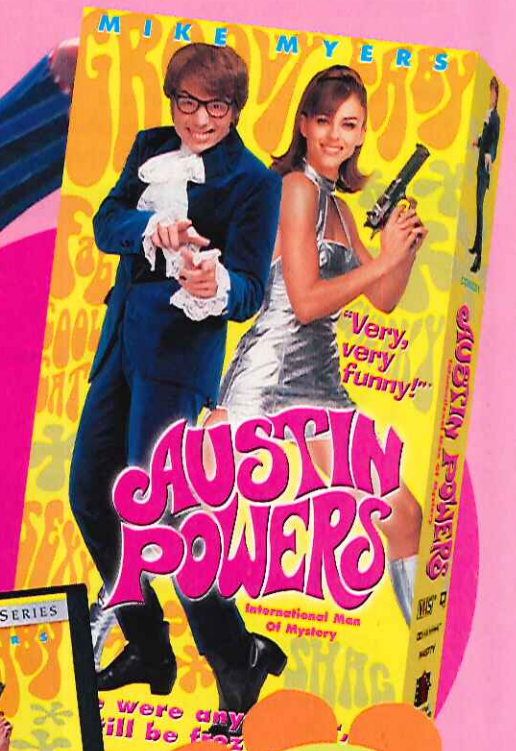
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THE CHAPERONE

EPISODE 83

PREMIERED: 09/22/94 **WRITERS:** Larry David, Bill Masters, Bob Shaw **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** At a Yankees game, Jerry picks up Karen, a.k.a. Miss Rhode Island ("I was almost Mr. Coffee. They felt I was a little too relaxed"). But the Miss America pageant requires dates to be chaperoned, so Jerry enlists Kramer, who becomes Karen's consultant. But when Jerry accidentally kills Karen's doves, he kills her magic act, too, so she's forced to sing "It's a Most Unusual Day," off-key. **GUEST STARS:** Ian Abercrombie (Justin Pitt), Marguerite MacIntyre (Karen), Buck Showalter and Danny Tartabull (as themselves) **SOCK TRAUMA:** Elaine is hired as a personal assistant to millionaire Justin Pitt, who has her finding socks with just the right elasticity. **CLOTHES ENCOUNTER:** George engineers a Yankee uniform switch ("Cotton breathes. It's much softer"). **RATING:** ★★ Kramer

as pageant pundit? Hard to buy. Elaine as Pitt's personal assistant? Inspired.

THE BIG SALAD

EPISODE 84

PREMIERED: 09/29/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George is indignant when girlfriend Julie gets credit for buying Elaine a "big salad" at Monk's. When Jerry learns that new love Margaret was once dumped by Newman, he's unable to kiss her. After Kramer spars with golfing partner Steve Gendason, the former ballplayer goes on a rampage and kills Bobby Pincus, owner of Royal Dry Cleaners. In an unexpected O.J. spoof, Kramer is aboard as Gendason flees in a white Bronco. On the horn with the highway patrol, Kramer borrows from Al Cowlings: "My name is Kramer. You know who I am, dammit." **GUEST STARS:** Michelle Forbes (Julie), Marita Geraghty

(Margaret), Dean Hall (Gendason), Wayne Knight (Newman) **PARANOIA REARS ITS UGLY HEAD:** Says George: "Did you see what just happened here?" **RATING:** ★★ The big-salad story is a hearty morsel, but the O.J.-like chase is too much dressing.

THE PLEDGE DRIVE

EPISODE 85

PREMIERED: 10/06/94 **WRITERS:** Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry cashes an old \$50 check from his Nana. But the account has long been dormant, so Nana sets off for the bank at 5:30 A.M. Reports Uncle Leo: "Your Nana is missing.... She hasn't left the apartment in 25 years." Meanwhile, Jerry thinks Elaine's friend Noreen is flirting with him. Elaine spills the beans when she mistakes Noreen's "high talking" beau, Dan, for Noreen herself. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Kelly Coffield (Noreen), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Brian Reddy (Dan), Billye Ree Wallace (Nana)

LOVE ON THE ROCKS

Who would have guessed that Puddy (below)—the face painting, eight-ball jacket/man-fur wearing, squinting auto mechanic who stole Jerry's "move"—would have made for Elaine's most successful relationship in nine years? Then again, look at her track record. In a long line of losers, can you match Elaine's man with her misery?

1. Roy, a.k.a. Triangle Boy (Sherman Howard)
2. Owen (Edward Penn)
3. Keith Hernandez (as himself)
4. "Crazy" Joe Davola (Peter Crombie)
5. Fred (Tony Carlin)
6. Jake (Marty Rackham)
7. Joel Rifkin (Anthony Cistaro)
8. Tony (Dan Cortese)
9. Phil (Mark Tymchyshyn)
10. Aaron (Judge Reinhold)
11. Maestro, a.k.a. Bob (Mark Metcalf)
12. Craig (Harry Van Gorkum)
13. Todd Gack (John D'Aquino)
14. Brett (James Patrick Stuart)
15. Alan (Tom Gallop)
16. Kurt (John Michael Higgins)
17. Blaine (Todd Jeffries)
18. Glenn (Nicholas Paul Walker)
19. Ben (Bob Odenkirk)
20. Kevin (Tim DeKay)



- A. "Religious guy" who can't get past "the nip" (51)
- B. Refuses to admit they're dating (123)
- C. "Mimbo" rock climber (73)
- D. Pretentious hack conductor (107, 120)
- E. Formerly corpulent fellow who stuffs his face after a splenectomy (58)
- F. "Doctor" who can't seem to pass his licensing test (135)
- G. Loves "The English Patient" (she hates it) (143)
- H. Will be bald by the time he gets out of prison (137)
- I. "Desperado"-obsessed furniture designer who won't share his song (133)
- J. Shares his name with a serial killer (70)
- K. Only-in-it-for-the-sex 66-year-old who suffers a stroke (28)
- L. Obsessive stalker with a penchant for "I Pagliacci" (44)
- M. Former ballplayer who smokes (34)
- N. Married welfare recipient (162)
- O. Exclamation-point-free writer (65)
- P. Bad breaker-upper who points out Elaine's giant-size head (136)
- Q. Takes "it" out on the first date (77)
- R. So overeager, he gets a vasectomy after learning she doesn't want kids (she then changes her mind) (128)
- S. Overly friendly "close talker" (79)
- T. Clothing salesman who can't deliver on his employee discount (122)

ANSWERS: 1) e; 2) k; 3) m; 4) f; 5) a; 6) o; 7) j; 8) c; 9) q; 10) s; 11) d; 12) t; 13) b; 14) f; 15) p; 16) h; 17) e; 18) n; 19) f; 20) r

MR. MANNERS: How long do you keep a greeting card? "The rule is a minimum of two days," George says. **PRISSIER THAN THOU?** Mr. Pitt sparks a trend when he eats a Snickers bar with a fork. **RATING: ★★★** Dan, Nana, Leo: The guest stars shine.

THE CHINESE WOMAN

EPISODE 86

PREMIERED: 10/13/94 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** On the phone, Jerry mistakenly assumes new love interest Donna Chang—a fan of Confucius and acupuncture—is Chinese. Meanwhile, Jerry and Elaine spot George's dad with a suspicious man in a cape, only to learn that he's counseling Frank on his marital split. George's lament: "Who wears a cape?" Chang's sage advice reunites the Costanzas, but upon meeting her, Estelle shrieks, "She's not Chinese. I was duped!" **GUEST STARS:** Coffield (Noreen), Angela Dohrmann (Donna Chang), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **DAMSEL DISTRESSED:** Noreen switches to a "long talker." **PRIVATE PARTS:** Kramer's sperm count is low, but he resists switching to boxers: "My boys need a house." **RATING: ★★★** You relish Kramer's joy as he opts to go without. "There's nothing holding me in place! I'm flipping. I'm flopping." And once again, *Seinfeld* toys with our politically incorrect stereotypes.

THE COUCH

EPISODE 87

PREMIERED: 10/27/94 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine falls for the moving man who delivers Jerry's couch, then frets that he might be pro-life. "I'm sure he's pro-choice," she tries to convince herself. "Why?" Jerry asks. "He's just so good-looking," she responds. Meanwhile, Kramer goes into the pizza biz with antiabortionist Poppie, and they, too, argue. "You can't give people the right to choose any topping they want," Poppie says. Kramer insists: "It's not pizza until it comes out of the oven." **GUEST STARS:** David James Elliott (Carl), Jessica Hecht (Lindsay), Reni Santoni (Poppie) **LA-Z-BOY:** Jerry's *amore* for his couch dissipates when Poppie has an accident (in the canine sense) on it. **LITERARY LIES:** Fellow book-club member Lindsay nails George for not having read *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. **RATING: ★★★** Infused with politics, this episode proves the show is best when it's about nothing.

THE GYMNAST

EPISODE 88

PREMIERED: 11/03/94 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry pursues Romanian gymnast Katya, hoping for acrobatic sex, but he finds little to say on a date except "Ceausescu, he must have been some dictator." George is caught



According to Stiller, producers were initially concerned that the Mansliero (episode 98) looked too feminine.

demands to be taken out again. ("This is the dinner," Jerry insists. "The soup counts.") On a walk in Central Park, George mentions liking horse manure, and his date, Monk's waitress Kelly, suddenly reveals the existence of a boyfriend. By the end, Kelly and the suit have disappeared, but Bania continues to pop in and out of *Seinfeld* forevermore. **GUEST STARS:** Daniel Gerroll (Simon), Stephen Hytner (Kenny Bania), Tracy Kolis (Kelly) **THE MOTHER TONGUE:** Elaine's snobby British

munching on an éclair from Lindsay's (now his girlfriend) mother's trash. (Jerry: "You, my friend, have crossed the line that divides man and bum.") Later, Jerry hits Madison Square Garden to see Katya in the circus, but she ditches him for a Russian with a high-wire act. Or *had* one: His performance hits bottom when he's distracted by a shriek that signals the passing of Kramer's kidney stones. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Hecht (Lindsay) Elina Lowensohn (Katya), Lois Nettleton (Lindsay's mom) **INDECENT EXPOSURE:** George, on why he takes his shirt off when he goes to the bathroom: "It frees me up. No encumbrances." **RATING: ★★★** You can relish George's quirky eating habits, but the circus finale is over the (big) top.

THE SOUP

EPISODE 89

PREMIERED: 11/10/94 **WRITER:** Fred Stoller **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry takes third-rate comedian Kenny Bania to dinner at Mendy's after Bania gives him an Armani suit. But Bania only orders soup and

boyfriend, Simon, lectures her for saying "What?" instead of "Pardon?" **RATING: ★★★** What qualifies as a meal? The debate will leave you hungry for more.

THE MOM & POP STORE

EPISODE 90

PREMIERED: 11/17/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Le George buys a LeBaron, thinking it once belonged to Jon Voight. Kramer takes Jerry's shoes to be cleaned at a mom-and-pop store, leaving only a pair of boots ("I don't want to be a cowboy," Jerry whines). Elaine helps Mr. Pitt win a contest so he can help hold the Woody Woodpecker balloon in the Macy's parade. Everyone ends up at dentist Tim Whatley's pre-Thanksgiving party, where uninvited Jerry knocks a trophy from the windowsill. Landing spot? Right atop Le Woody. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Bryan Cranston (Whatley), Michael Robello (Pop), Elsa Raven (Mom), Jon Voight (as himself) **SMALL BUSINESS MINISTRATION:** "If my mom and pop ran a store," says George, "I

wouldn't shop there." **RATING: ★★☆☆**
A fast-moving, knee-slapping romp through Manhattan that ends with a send-up of "Midnight Cowboy."

THE SECRETARY

EPISODE 91

PREMIERED: 12/08/94 **WRITERS:** Carol Leifer, Marjorie Gross **DIRECTOR:** David Owen Trainor **STORY:** Jerry suspects nice Willie and his wife of violating the dry-cleaning code by wearing his clothes. Elaine charges that the Barneys dressing-room mirror is giving "false reflection." George refuses a good-looking job seeker—"I would give up red meat just to get a glimpse of you in a bra"—then has a fling with his at-first unsexy new secretary, Ada. And Kramer's "classic" suit continues to make the rounds, forcing Jerry to spring for two more dinners. **GUEST STARS:** Hytner (Bania), Vicki Lewis (Ada), Joseph R. Sicari (Willie) **DASHED DREAMS:** A moisturizer mishap prevents Kramer from hooking up with Uma Thurman. **RATING: ★★** Funny threads, but this loosely woven episode doesn't keep us in stitches.

THE RACE

EPISODE 92

PREMIERED: 12/15/94 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross, David, Sam Kass **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's communist boyfriend, Ned, wins over Kramer, who starts reciting the party line in his new job as a department-store Santa. George answers a personal ad in the *Daily Worker*. Elaine claims Hop Sing restaurant screwed up her order, landing herself on the do-not-deliver list. And Jerry is forced to fight for his honor: Girlfriend Lois's boss is a high school classmate who has always believed Jerry cheated in a track race and wants a rematch. **GUEST STARS:** Todd Kimsey (Ned), Renee Props (Lois), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **LOOK FOR:** A quick Vicki Lewis reprise as Ada. **MAN OF STEEL:** While the "Superman" theme plays after Jerry's triumph, his girlfriend invites him to Florida. Jerry: "Maybe I will, Lois, maybe I will." **RATING: ★★☆☆** Can appeal to the masses.

THE SWITCH

EPISODE 93

PREMIERED: 01/05/95 **WRITERS:** Bruce Kirschbaum, Kass **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George plots to catch his model girlfriend, Nina, in the bathroom because he believes she's bulimic ("Of course I'm concerned. I'm paying for those meals"). Kramer enlists his mother, ladies' room



Bette at bat: When guest star Midler steps up to the plate in a charity game (104), can disaster be far behind?

matron Babs, to help find out, but she also spills the beans on Kramer's first name: Cosmo. Meanwhile, Jerry suggests a ménage à trois in his scheme to switch from humorless girlfriend Sandi to her bubbly roommate, Laura. **GUEST STARS:** Jann Karam (Sandi), Knight (Newman), Charlotte Lewis (Nina), Heather Medway (Laura), Sheree North (Babs), Gail Strickland (Landis) **ANOTHER FOILED SCHEME:** Elaine gets nabbed as she tries to steal back Mr. Pitt's tennis racket from Doubleday editor Landis. **RATING: ★★☆☆** "Cosmo?" A trivial question answered makes for an episode that is out of this world.

THE LABEL MAKER

EPISODE 94

PREMIERED: 01/19/95 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Because Jerry gave him his Super Bowl tickets, Tim Whatley gives Jerry a label maker, but it's the same one that Elaine gave Tim for Christmas. Soon Jerry wants his tickets back, especially when he finds out Tim has invited Newman. "Who goes to the Super Bowl with their mailman?" George asks. "Who goes anywhere with Newman?" Jerry responds. Elaine asks to go "upstairs" to Tim's apartment so she can see whether he "regifted." Instead, he disinvites Newman and asks Elaine to the game. She never makes it, but Newman does. **GUEST STARS:** Cleto Augusto (Scott), Cranston (Whatley), Knight (Newman), Jessica Tuck (Bonnie) **NOW WHAT?** George complains to girlfriend Bonnie about her male roommate, Scott, so she kicks Scott

out. Then George finds that all the velvet he so loved went with him. **RATING: ★★☆☆** An episode that keeps on giving.

THE SCOFFLAW

EPISODE 95

PREMIERED: 01/26/95 **WRITER:** Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George's friend Gary Fogel offers him a spot in a parking garage in exchange for not divulging his lie about having cancer. Jerry, who had given Fogel a hair-club membership, is forced to hold his tongue as well. Elaine plots a way to wreak havoc on pompous Jake Jarmel (episode 82). In a *Moby Dick* moment, Kramer learns Newman is the "white whale" ticket scofflaw that an eye-patch-wearing cop has been tracking. **GUEST STARS:** Daniel Benzali (Officer), Jon Lovitz (Gary Fogel), Marty Rackham (Jake Jarmel) **YOU GOTTA HAVE HAND:** Says Elaine of her ex: "He made the last contact between us. I had the upper hand in the postbreakup relationship." **RATING: ★★** The Fogel chemotherapy deception is on solid footing, but the fiasco with Newman as white whale doesn't hold water.

THE BEARD

EPISODE 96

PREMIERE: 02/09/95 **WRITER:** Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's latest romance is doomed when she attempts to convert her gay friend Robert. Jerry tries to impress an attractive female cop but ends up strapped to a polygraph machine to determine whether he watches *Melrose Place*. George's toupee gets tossed out the

window, and Kramer participates in police lineups for \$50 a pop. **GUEST STARS:** Katherine Lanasa (Cathy the female cop), Robert Mailhouse (Robert) **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE:** Says Jerry: "I have access to one of the most deceitful, duplicitous, deceptive minds of our times. Who better to advise me?" **THE RULES:** Why getting a gay man to "switch teams" is futile: "They're only comfortable with their equipment," says Jerry. **HISTORIC MOMENT:** Jerry does the "Get out!" push on Elaine. **RATING: ★★** George, Elaine and Jerry hit a homer, striking a balance between hateful shallowness and underlying lovability, but Kramer's thin storyline fouls out.

THE KISS HELLO

EPISODE 97

PREMIERED: 02/16/95 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry Seinfeld **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry and George get rubbed the wrong way by Elaine's physical therapist friend, Wendy: Jerry because she pecks him on the cheek hello and George because of her inflexible billing policies. Kramer then posts Jerry's picture in the building lobby, resulting in more casual kissing. When Jerry rebels, the entire building turns against him. Elsewhere, Jerry's Uncle Leo puts Nana in a nursing home to keep her quiet about an old debt. **GUEST STARS:** Lesser (Uncle Leo), Seinfeld ex and Elaine prototype Carol Leifer (Wendy's receptionist), Wendie Malick (Wendy) **MINUTIAE MOMENT:** Jerry to George: "If they make squeeze mustard, doesn't it stand to reason that they make squeeze ketchup?" **...AND NO PARENTAL ADVISORY:** After Jerry complains about being kissed on the cheek, Kramer plants a wet one on him—on the lips—as George walks in. **RATING: ★★** Jerry turns in a respectable performance, displaying his disdain of intimacy in a humorously warped episode that's wrapped fairly tight.

THE DOORMAN

EPISODE 98

PREMIERED: 02/23/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry becomes unhinged by a doorman who needles him: "You really think you're better than me, don't ya?" Jerry briefly takes over the job, but his friendly overture backfires when a couch is stolen from the lobby. Meanwhile, Kramer fastens George's bosomy father with an undergarment designed specifically for top-heavy men. The two then set off to manufacture the Manssiere—or Bro, if you prefer. **GUEST STARS:** Patrick Cronin (Farkus), Harris (Estelle), Larry Miller (Doorman), Stiller

SEIN OF THE TIMES

Through the years, *Seinfeld* has made pointed and sometimes pointless references to pop-culture phenomena, from superheroes to silly trends. Below, how some of the noteworthy minutiae of everyday life entered TV's bizarre world.

PERSONALITIES

Superman Jerry has a pocket full of

Kryptonite for his favorite superhero.

Mickey Mantle Kramer accidentally punches out his hero at the Yankees fantasy camp. (episode 53)

Mary Hart The *Entertainment Tonight* cohost has a voice that literally floors Kramer: He ends up prone from a seizure. (36)

Gandhi Elaine volunteers her time with an older woman who waxes nostalgic about her passionate affair with the peaceful leader. (56)

Salman Rushdie Arguing that even writers with bounties on their heads need to stay fit, Kramer is convinced he has spotted the author at the gym. (57)

ENTERTAINMENT

Calvin Klein ads He's no waif, but Kramer, with his "sublime" buttocks, was a hot underwear model for Calvin Klein. (51)

"Phenomenon" George likens himself to this movie's brilliant and superhuman main character when he suddenly stops obsessing about sex. (135)

"The English Patient" Elaine loses friends, a boyfriend and a job over her confession that she hates the critically acclaimed movie. (143)

"Home Alone" Caught! Jerry finds George crying (alone) at the end of the Macaulay Culkin flick. (58)

"Hair" Elaine reveals that her roommate may have picked up Lyme disease after performing in an outdoor production of this musical. (5)

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Forget those vintage shirts. Kramer becomes a fashion magnet when he borrows the musical's backup coat from George's houseguest, who works on the Broadway show. (122)

I Love Lucy Jerry admits to never having

seen an episode of the classic TV series. (9)

Dragnet Kramer dresses the part of and impersonates Joe Friday from this TV series, as he steals back a statue for Jerry. (11)

Today Bryant Gumbel can't help mocking Jerry's pirate-like puffy shirt when he appears on the morning show. (63)

The Tonight Show Jerry appears twice, bombing because his hotel chambermaid accidentally threw away his notes and causing a family rift by insulting Uncle Leo. (40, 119)

Live With Regis & Kathie Lee Kramer appears to promote his coffee-table book about coffee tables. (82)

PUBLICATIONS

Glamour George succumbs to temptation while flipping through the pages of this women's magazine, and his mother catches him in the act. (49)

Penthouse In converting to an adults-only business, dentist Tim Whatley offers copies of this magazine in the waiting room. (99)

TV GUIDE When Elaine takes an issue of "the guide" from George's parents' house, she catches the eye of a guy on the subway, and the ire of Mr. Costanza. (71)

PRODUCTS/SERVICES

MovieFone When Kramer mistakenly receives calls from moviegoers looking for times and places, he begins counseling them on their entertainment options. (112)

Pottery Barn Kramer goes into a tizzy when this company sends him too many mail-order catalogs. (153)

The Gap Alert: Babes by the blue jeans! Kramer and Mickey combine shopping with dating when they find chicks at this store. (145)

(Frank) **THE HORROR:** George describes seeing his father's ample chest: "It's like my own personal 'Crying Game.'" **...AND NO PARENTAL ADVISORY NO. 2:** Estelle announces she's going on a date with bra salesman Farkus, over Frank's angry objections: "He only sells them. He doesn't wear them." **RATING: ★★** The episode finely illustrates the *Seinfeldian* propensity for classic vaudevillian situations, with guest star Miller getting great mileage just from his devilishly deviant smile.

THE JIMMY

EPISODE 99

PREMIERED: 03/16/95 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:**

Elaine unknowingly agrees to date third-person-talking, high-jumping Jimmy, and George comes under suspicion by the burglarized Yankees because he sweats all day after a workout. Mel Tormé serenades the Novocain-addled Kramer at a benefit for the mentally challenged. Jerry suspects he was taken advantage of by his dentist, Tim, and assistant, to which Elaine offers little comfort. "So you were violated by two people while you were under the gas," she says. "So what? You're single." **GUEST STARS:** Cranston (Tim), Anthony Starke (Jimmy), Mel Tormé (as himself) **NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT:** Kramer finds George Will attractive but not "all that bright." **THE GEORGE:**

Speaking Jimmy-like, George discovers he can brainwash Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. **RATING:** ★★★★★ This gem sparkles as it hits on all the main players' quirks while giving George a great new avenue to deceive.

THE DOODLE

EPISODE 100

PREMIERED: 04/06/95 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry mistakenly eats a pecan that was spit out by his girlfriend, Shelley. George's neurosis flies into high gear when he finds that a doodle drawn by girlfriend Paula exaggerates his features, then pulls a Jerry when he is grossed out watching her suck on a peach pit he just discarded. (The fruit is courtesy of Kramer, who goes bananas for special peaches available only two weeks out of the year). Elaine loses out on a new job when Jerry's relatives run up a hotel room bill in her name. And Jerry has fleas. **GUEST STARS:** Knight (Newman), Lesser (Uncle Leo), Barney Martin (Morty), Christa Miller (Paula), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Dana Wheeler-Nicholson (Shelley) **NEWMAN THE PEST:** Chunky wrappers under his seat cushions lead Jerry to the source of his infestation: Newman. **LOUNGE LIZARD:** Jerry dubs George the "Velvet Fog" (in homage to Mel Tormé, a guest in the previous episode) for wearing a velvet jogging suit. **RATING:** ★★ This series of half-baked storylines could use some spice.

THE FUSILLI JERRY

EPISODE 101

PREMIERED: 04/27/95 **WRITERS:** Marjorie Gross, Jonathan Gross, Ron Hauge, Charlie Rubin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** This episode deals with things silly, from Puddy to Kramer's statue of a fusilli Jerry (Why fusilli? "Because you're silly," answers Kramer). Jerry is distraught when Elaine dates his mechanic, David Puddy, and tries to put the brakes on it after learning Puddy has stolen his "move,"

i.e., bedroom technique. The ASSMAN cometh as the wrong set of license plates lands on Kramer's bumper, while George's difficulty mastering the "move" elicits a less-than-desired result from girlfriend Nancy. **GUEST STARS:** Marla Sucharetza (Nancy), Patrick Warburton (David Puddy) **SEXUAL MECHANICS:** Jerry's "move" requires a headboard and ends with a swirl or a pinch. **MOMMY DEAREST:** George,

on that special mother-son bond: "You take TV out of this relationship, it is just torture."

RATING: ★★★★★ Kudos to new character

Thanks to Kramer's cravings, a patient on the operating table is left Junior Mint-y fresh in episode 58.

Puddy and making a raucous sexual discussion seem as innocent as macaroni.

THE DIPLOMATS CLUB

EPISODE 102

PREMIERED: 05/04/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Guess who's coming to dinner? A stupid remark to his Yankees superior has George scurrying to find an African-American friend, with Jerry's exterminator, Karl (from episode 100), the unsuspecting prey. A smothering manager manages to ruin one of Jerry's gigs and a planned rendezvous with supermodel Bridgett, and Elaine comes under suspicion by Mr. Pitt's estate lawyer, Lenore, after he nearly succumbs to a deadly mix of drugs. **GUEST STARS:** Abercrombie (Pitt), Knight (Newman), Debra Jo Rupp (Katie the manager), Berta Maria Waagford (Bridgett), Ellis E. Williams (Karl), Kim Zimmer (Lenore) **UNFRIENDLY SKIES:** Jerry flies United but gets kicked off the plane after his assistant insults the pilot. **SON OF A GUN:** We learn that Newman once worked—and double-dated—with David Berkowitz, a.k.a. Son of Sam. **RATING:** ★★★ Inspired bits abound, but the less-than-stellar freakish pilot plot keeps the episode from taking off.

THE FACE PAINTER

EPISODE 103

PREMIERED: 05/11/95 **WRITERS:** David, Stoller **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine scores tickets to a New Jersey Devils game from a friend and brings Puddy, whose frat-boy face paint sends a priest into a coma. The disaster that is George's love life hits the skids again, this time when he expresses his feelings to girlfriend Siena. Kramer gets into a fight with a monkey (of course), and Jerry attends a funeral. **GUEST STARS:** Pierrino Mascarino (Father Hernandez), Katy Selverstone (Siena), Warburton (Puddy) **DEATH OF A GUEST STAR:** Jerry attends the funeral of cancer faker Gary Fogel, who died in a car accident while adjusting his toupee. **HISTORIC MOMENT:** George says Siena is the first woman to whom he's said, "I love you." He is lying (see episode 6). **RATING:** ★★★ The episode reconfirms that love, friendship, gratitude, etc., are prime fodder for *Seinfeld* monkey business.

THE UNDERSTUDY

EPISODE 104

PREMIERED: 05/18/95 **WRITERS:** Gross, Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's relationship with an understudy suffers a bad break when George hurts the star of the musical, Bette Midler, in a charity softball game and Kramer becomes her personal guardian. Elaine is suspicious that her Korean manicurist, Ruby, is talking about her and recruits Frank Costanza's help. Elaine's talent for long-winded, boorish soliloquies lands her a job after meeting J. Peterman on a night as dark as the underside of an oft-used cauldron. **GUEST STARS:** June Kyoko Lu (Ruby), Bette Midler (as herself), Adelaide Miller (Gennice the understudy), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Stiller (Frank) **WAR STORIES:** Frank's foot odor cost him a relationship with a Korean woman. **A KNEE-SLAPPER:** Jerry's girlfriend's debut in "Rochelle, Rochelle: The Musical" takes a tragic Tonya Harding-esque turn: "Look at my shoelace. I can't do it like this. Please let me start it over!" **RATING:** ★★★ Elaine's verbal fracas with her manicurist and first foray into the Peterman world are delightful, but the Midler plot doesn't deliver.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING [WITH THE BRO] WAS THAT KRAMER COULD WORK THE HOOKS WITHOUT GETTING TOO EXCITED." —Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)

BYE, FOR NOW

BEFORE IT'S ALL OVER, WARM-UP COMEDIAN JEFF BYE TAKES A MINUTE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

There are many fascinating tales of how ordinary people landed their first big break in show business. This isn't one of them. My first job upon arriving in Hollywood in March 1992 was to sit in Jerry Seinfeld's office. That's it.

I would simply sit at his desk in the *Seinfeld* production office every Wednesday night for five hours while the show was taping next door at CBS Studios' Stage 19. The reason for this was that earlier in the year, some money had been stolen from Jerry's desk, so I was hired to keep an eye on things. For this I was paid \$50 per night and allowed to watch as many *Seinfeld* episodes as I wanted. At the time there were only 35, and most people had never even heard of *Seinfeld*. But being alone with a VCR and five hours to kill made me a fan of and an expert on the NBC sitcom.

As the ratings rose, so did my career. I held a variety of jobs in the production department, which allowed me to observe many things behind the scenes. Along the way, I managed to sell a few monologue jokes to Jerry that were used in the show, including a Bozo the Clown riff ("Is the clown designation really necessary? If you have a rubber nose, red hair and size 16 feet, I think Bozo is sufficient. There's no Bozo the District Attorney"). I appeared in four episodes, including "The Caddy," in which I played Elaine's boyfriend in a '70s flashback scene.

Six years later, I still show up for work every Wednesday night for five hours, but now I spend my time in front of the 300-member studio audience, hosting the show. As the *Seinfeld* warm-up comedian, I finally have an outlet for my trivia and anecdotes. For this I am paid more than a thousand bucks a night, and I don't mind telling you, it beats the hell out of my desk job. Here (and at no cost to you) are the answers to some of the questions most frequently asked by the studio audience.

Why is an NBC show filmed at CBS?

Because CBS has no hit shows this season. (Just kidding.)

CBS Studio Center is not exclusive to CBS; space is rented to all the networks.

Where do the writers come from?

Most attended Harvard University and worked on such shows as

Letterman, Conan O'Brien and The Simpsons. The majority are younger than 30 years old, and they're all very wealthy.

How much does an episode of *Seinfeld* cost to make?

About \$4 million, and we produce 22 a year. (An average sitcom costs about \$1 million per episode.)

Has Michael Richards ever been hurt doing a stunt?

Michael goes home every week with bumps and bruises. He once dove through Jerry's window with such gusto (trying to catch Jerry's Commando 8 air conditioner) that he nearly broke his ribs. It was my job to drive him to the emergency room to get X-rayed.

What interaction has the show had with the real J. Peterman?

We had to run the script by him to get permission to kill his mother in the episode titled "The Secret Code." Also, he frequently hires John O'Hurley, the actor who portrays him, to appear at openings of his outlet stores.

Have there been jokes in the show that weren't in the original script?

Yes. In "The Junior Mint," Jerry's girlfriend says her name rhymes with a female body part. In the script it was "Cloris," but during the show the audience was asked to guess her name, and a woman said, "Dolores." The writers realized that was funnier.

Has there ever been a heckler in the studio audience?

Yes. Once a female asked Jerry what size bra Shoshanna Lonstein, his girlfriend at the time, wore. He politely told her it was none of her business. The woman persisted until Jerry asked her what size jock she wore. The woman replied, "I don't wear a jock," to which Jerry responded, "Well, you should."

What is the cast of *Seinfeld* really like?

*Generous. For example, for Christmas one year, Michael, Julia, Jason and Jerry bought customized *Seinfeld*-edition mountain bikes for all 100 members of the crew. Total cost: about \$40,000.*

What famous people have come to a taping?

Beau Bridges, Diane Keaton, Chris Rock, Mick Fleetwood, Marla Maples and Randy Travis are just a few (Travis even played guitar and sang during a break). It's my job to meet them and find out how they wish to be introduced to the studio audience, if at all.

Do the cast members hang out after a show?

*In the early days, they used to go to Jerry's Famous Deli in Studio City to unwind, but now their careers leave little time for socializing. However, I think it's obvious that the *Seinfeld* cast members like each other a lot. That kind of chemistry you just can't fake.*





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
STEPHEN ROOT, *NewsRadio* (EPISODE 126);
BRUCE DAVISON, "LONGTIME COMPANION" (127)



WENDIE MALICK, *Just Shoot Me* (97); ROB SCHNEIDER, *Men Behaving Badly* (121); BRAD GARRETT, *Everybody Loves Raymond* (124)



FRED SAVAGE,
Working (40)

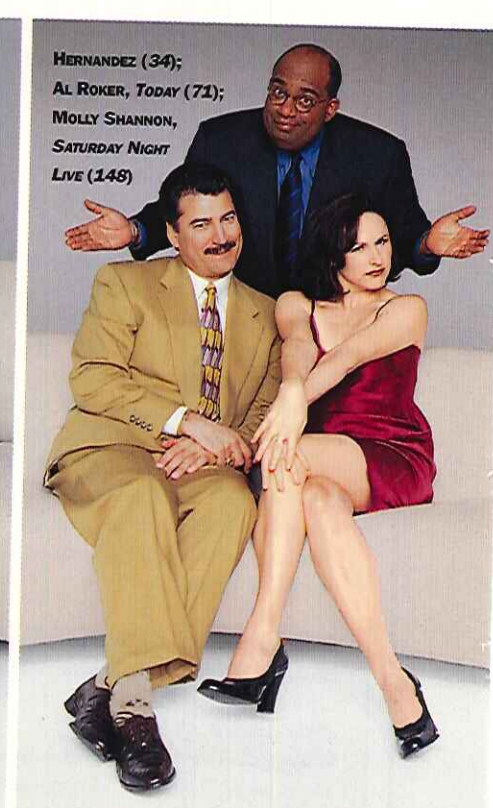
THE STARS SEIN UP



DAVID JAMES ELLIOTT, *JAG* (87); JESSICA HECHT, *The Single Guy* (87, 88)



CHELSEA NOBLE,
Growing Pains (143)



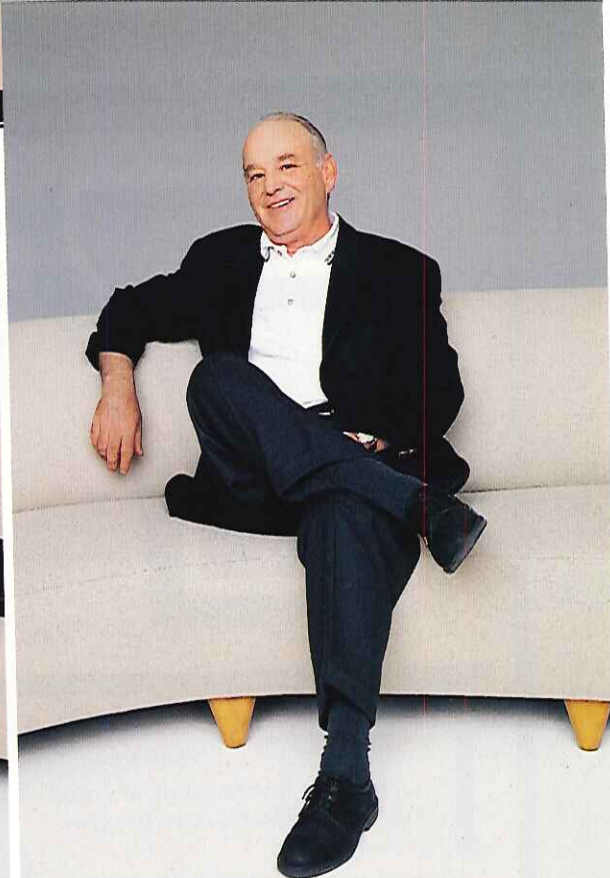
HERNANDEZ (34);
AL ROKER, *Today* (71);
MOLLY SHANNON,
Saturday Night Live (148)



DEDEE PFEIFFER, *CYBILL* (82)



CHRISTA MILLER, *THE DREW CAREY SHOW* (65, 100); DAN CORTESE, *VERONICA'S CLOSET* (73); VOIGHT (90)



BRIAN DOYLE-MURRAY, *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE* (45)

Keith Hernandez may have inhaled as a New York Met, but his nicotine habit snuffed any chance of getting to second base with Elaine. Jon Voight bit the bullet in 'Nam, only to find out he was coming home to bite the hand of Kramer. But while many noble careers were humbled in a single half hour, two famous faces could smile at the news that they had once procreated: Real-life couple Robert Wagner and Jill St. John found a little bundle of joy in bouncing bearded little person Mickey.



VICKI LEWIS, *NEWSRADIO* (91, 92)



WAGNER AND ST. JOHN (145)



KATHY GRIFFIN, *SUDDENLY SUSAN* (120, 161); CORBIN BERNSEN, *L.A. LAW* (40); CAROL KANE, *TAXI* (75)

7

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Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? Is it possible for even *Seinfeld* to go too far?

Questions previously unthinkable came to the fore during this pivotal and controversial season, which for a while was thought to be the show's last. (So began a new tradition: waiting for Jerry and the gang to decide if they'd stopped having fun.) With the show launched into syndication, *Seinfeld* cultists and latecomers could more easily compare the frenetic new episodes with the simpler classics, not always favoring the new variety.

It's worth noting that in the tradition of TV originals such as *Northern Exposure*, which arrived the same summer as *Seinfeld* and was canceled in the spring of 1995, *Seinfeld* is by its nature uneven. This is especially true in the later years, when one brilliant storyline often is obscured by a flimsier tangent.

While this season's hourlong episodes ("The Cadillac" and "The Bottle Deposit") were especially strained, this was also the year of the Soup Nazi, a delectable, dognapping Newman, Elaine's coveted contraceptive sponge (Louis-Dreyfus would win an Emmy) and the masterfully structured episode "The Rye."

Threading through the season was the story of George's misbegotten engagement to Susan. And anyone who thought Jerry mugging an old lady for a loaf of bread in "The Rye" was in questionable taste hadn't seen anything yet. In the still-polarizing season finale, Susan died licking toxic glue off of cheap wedding invitations. The lack of remorse as the foursome headed for coffee—Kramer added insult to fatal injury by referring to Susan as "poor Lily"—rankled many for its misanthropy and tickled others with its audacity.

Behind the scenes, something just as unnerving occurred: Cocreator Larry David, the alter ego of the neurotic George, decided to hang it up for good. He'd had enough.





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THE ENGAGEMENT

E P I S O D E 1 0 5

PREMIERED: 09/21/95 **WRITER:** Larry David
DIRECTOR: Andy Ackerman **STORY:** Another *Seinfeld* romance is torpedoed by triviality when George's latest gal pal reveals her fondness for the phrase "Happy, Pappy?" Jerry and George make a pact to renew old loves, this time acting like adults, but Jerry reneges after a dinner with his ex Melanie. Unaware of this, George pops the question to ex-girlfriend Susan (whose lesbianism "didn't take," he explains). Elaine copes with a different sort of wake-up call: A dog with an annoying nocturnal yap. Enter Kramer and Newman, aspiring dognappers.
GUEST STARS: Wayne Knight (Newman), Athena Massey (Melanie), Heidi Swedberg (Susan) **MR. MANNERS:** Jerry is turned off when Melanie prongs her peas one at a time. **MARRIAGE HELL:** George has to watch Susan's *Mad About You* tape and go to "The Muted Heart," starring Glenn Close and Sally Field. **RATING: ★★** Jerry and George nail the "are we not men?" theme, but Elaine's canine-induced flip-out has no teeth despite nifty napping.



Yes, George (Alexander) proposes to Susan (Swedberg), but that doesn't mean she's secret-code worthy.

THE POSTPONEMENT

E P I S O D E 1 0 6

PREMIERED: 09/28/95 **WRITER:** David
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Two people have big problems with George's engagement: George and Elaine. He's in a panic; she's bitter that such a loser's getting married and she's not. George takes his troubles to his fiancée, Susan, who cries. Elaine confesses to a rabbi, who blabs—on TV! When Jerry and Kramer go see "Plan 9 From Outer Space," coffee-smuggling Kramer has a nasty accident. At last, Kramer gets a chance to cash in on the fancy-coffee boom he claims to have started by drinking caffè latte in fifth grade: He sues Java World for millions.
GUEST STAR: Bruce Mahler (the rabbi) **FIVE-YEAR PLAN:** Jerry has been waiting to see

"Plan 9 From Outer Space" since Episode 16, when the gang had a bit of a wait at a Chinese restaurant. **JERRY'S JOY OF SEX:** After hearing about George's fight with Susan, Jerry says that at least they got to have passionate sex afterward. George, stricken, says no. Jerry's appalled: "How could you not have make-up sex?" **THOMAS ALVA COSTANZA:** George's big idea: making the rest-room-stall doors at Yankee Stadium go all the way to the floor. **RATING: ★★** George's premarital agony is a pleasure, but the rabbi schtick gets old quick.

THE MAESTRO

E P I S O D E 1 0 7

PREMIERED: 10/05/95 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Looking for reasons not

to marry Susan, George seizes on her lack of compassion for the security guard who has to stand all day at her uncle's clothing store. Another would-be do-gooder tries to help Kramer with his caffè-latte burns by bringing him some Chinese balm, but the Maestro—as the D-list conductor insists on being called—succeeds too well. The wound heals so quickly that the unnerved Kramer sabotages his Java World lawsuit. When Elaine sees the Maestro, she hears a symphony, but Jerry hears a phony. He's especially irked that the Maestro (a.k.a. Bob) insists there are no more rentals in Tuscany, where he and Elaine are going on vacation. Jerry just knows the Maestro's hitting a false note. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Metcalf (Maestro), Phil Morris (lawyer Jackie Chiles) **GRABBED FROM THE HEADLINES:** Morris does an ace Johnnie Cochran parody (he'll return for future Kramer legal intrigues), and the coffee contretemps nicely skewers the infamous McDonald's hot-lap lawsuit. **A&E MOMENT:** Elaine and the Maestro in an "A Room With a View" takeoff. **RATING: ★** Some good moments, but the payoffs are curiously flatte.

THE WINK

E P I S O D E 1 0 8

PREMIERED: 10/12/95 **WRITERS:** Tom Gam-mill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's new salad 'n' fruit regimen becomes an unhealthy choice—for everyone. His latest love interest, Elaine's cousin Holly, looks down on meat haters, so Jerry stuffs her lovingly prepared mutton in his pocket. Elaine borrows the coat, and her new boyfriend's dogs nearly turn her into Alpo. Meanwhile, George can't stop winking after Jerry digs into a grapefruit and squirts him in the eye. Thinking that winkin' George has given him the nod, Kramer sells a George Steinbrenner birthday card signed by the Yankees. Kramer gets it back by promising a hospitalized little boy that Yankees outfielder Paul O'Neill will do

"I HAD JUST HAD MY SON, AND WAS NURSING. I SAID TO LARRY [DAVID], 'THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME YOU GET ASKED THIS, BUT WHAT SIZE WOULD YOU LIKE THEM?' DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH I NURSED, I COULD MAKE THEM LARGER OR SMALLER. HE TURNED THREE SHADES OF RED AND FINALLY SAID, 'I THINK THEY'RE FINE JUST THE WAY THEY ARE.' "

—Brenda Strong, on playing "braless wonder" Sue Ellen Mischke

heroic deeds. George's tie accidentally gets a co-worker fired, and George is promoted into the job. Now he'll actually have to work. **GUEST STARS:** Paul O'Neill (himself), Stacey Travis (Holly) **VOICE MALE:** Elaine goes out with the guy who calls from her wake-up service (Brian McNamara). **THE RULES:** Is it better to date the blind or the deaf? Jerry chooses deaf, because the blind are going to be untidy: "You're constantly walkin' around with a sponge." George opts for blind: "A good-lookin' blind woman doesn't really know that you're not good enough for her." **RATING: ★★** Kramer wringing the birthday card from a bedridden tyke is a hoot, but Jerry's stealthy food-stashing is an overcooked sitcom ploy.

THE HOT TUB

EPISODE 109

PREMIERED: 10/19/95 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** A long-distance runner from Trinidad-Tobago—who missed the Olympics when he overslept—is staying with Elaine for the New York Marathon, and Jerry worries that she's too cavalier about getting him to the starting line on time. So Jerry takes charge of Jean-Paul's sleeping schedule, but his alarm clock fails after Kramer's 16,000-BTU heat pump for his new hot tub blows out the building's fuses. Jean-Paul still manages to make the race, and even leads with a mile left. Too bad Kramer turns up to cheer him on. **GUEST STAR:** Jeremiah Birkett (Jean-Paul) **YANKEE DIPPERS:** The two Georges, Costanza and Steinbrenner, take a hot-tub soak together. **GEORGE'S JOB TIPS:** "When you look annoyed all the time, people think you're busy." **RATING: ★★** Jerry frets wonderfully on behalf of Jean-Paul, but the alarm-clock theme in back-to-back shows suggests the production team is suffering from sleep deprivation.

THE SOUP NAZI

EPISODE 110

PREMIERED: 11/02/95 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** In their quest for knee-bucklingly good soup, Jerry, George & Co. want to bend to the will of the abuse-ladling Soup Nazi, but their

basic instincts keep getting in the way. George whines when he doesn't get free bread. ("No soup for you!" the S.N. barks.) Elaine's overly familiar tone gets her the heave-ho. When Jerry brings along his gloppily affectionate girlfriend, Sheila ("Schmoopie!"), she gets tossed, then tries to make Jerry leave too. Torn between love and bisque, Jerry finally says, "Do I know you?" Only Kramer bonds with souperman, who offers up a spare armoire when Cosmo tells him the

sad tale of a friend whose antique was stolen. Little does the Soup Nazi know that the armoire is for Elaine, now his revenge-plotting enemy, or that his priceless recipes are inside. **GUEST STARS:** John Paragon (Ray),

Episode 31 gives us Jerry's musical Pez prank, the Beach and the immortal "I have no hand."

Swedberg (Susan), Larry Thomas (Soup Nazi), Yul Vazquez (Bob), Alexandra Wentworth (Sheila) **AMERICA'S MOST WANTED?** Meet Bob and Ray, representatives of a new criminal class: gay couples with vicious street-smarts and refined taste in period furniture.

THE FUGITIVE: Where does the Soup Nazi flee after Elaine reveals his recipe secrets? Argentina. **RATING: ★★★★★** As perfect as you-know-who's mulligatawny.

THE SECRET CODE

EPISODE 111

PREMIERED: 11/09/95 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George refuses to reveal his secret ATM code to his fiancée, Susan, but he's dying to tell somebody. Jerry's just dying to walk normally: His foot keeps falling asleep, which nearly cripples his gig doing ads for Leapin' Larry's appliance store because the one-legged Larry thinks limpin' Jerry is ridiculing him. The store is where Kramer bought a radio scanner, which now has him obsessed with the idea that fire engines don't take shortcuts. Elaine has a different obsession: the loser

Fred, who doesn't remember meeting her. **GUEST STARS:** Lewis Arquette (Leapin' Larry), Fred Stoller (Fred Yerkes), Swedberg (Susan) **DAILY PLANET REPORT:** Jerry's ATM code is "Jor-El," Superman's father on Krypton. **GRASSY-KNOLL MOMENT:** Elaine didn't even make an impression on Fred when she told him that her uncle worked in Dallas at the book depository with Lee Harvey Oswald. **RATING: ★★** Plot lines exhilaratingly entwine, bookended by two delicious George moments: parrying Susan's request for his ATM code and debating whether to reveal the code or let a man die.

THE POOL GUY

EPISODE 112

PREMIERED: 11/16/95 **WRITER:** David Mandel **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Friends. Jerry's got a new one—Ramon, the recently fired pool guy from his health club—that he doesn't want. Elaine's got a new one, George's fiancée, Susan, that he doesn't want her to have ("Worlds are colliding!"). Kramer has too many of the female variety, and doesn't want them calling all the time. Jerry ditches Ramon. George is in agony that "Independent George" will get mowed down when "Relationship George" invades his turf. Kramer's new number is one digit away from MovieFone's 555-FILM, and he happily discovers a mission in life: getting people to the show on time. **GUEST STARS:** Carlos Jacott (Ramon), Swedberg (Susan) **KNOCK, KNOCK:** The real MovieFone guy shows up at Kramer's apartment, ticked off about the new competition. "Please select the number of seconds you'd like to wait before I break down the door." **SELF-CENSORSH—** When Jerry tells Elaine that George isn't going to like her friendship with Susan, Elaine replies, "Yeah, I don't really give a sh—," chopping off the line with a slammed bathroom door. **RATING: ★★** Cosmo's movie-phone is a Kramer Keeper, and the war of the George worlds is classic, but the pool-guy bit belly-flops.

THE SPONGE

EPISODE 113

PREMIERED: 12/7/95 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Signing up to sponsor Kramer in the AIDS Walk, Jerry notices the name and—bingo!—the unlisted number of a girl he's interested in. He calls Lena and they go out, but she's so good (helps shut-ins, volunteers at a soup kitchen) that he's put off. "You can't have sex



THE J. SEINFELD CATALOG

There once was a man called J. Seinfeld—Jerry, to his compadres—who leapt from crag to crag on the mountainous minutiae of everyday life. As he and his trusted cohorts trekked the wilds of New York City for nine long years, they occasionally stumbled upon wonderfully inventive treasures. Gadgets. Garments. Gear that makes this hard life just a little bit easier. We present them here in this one-time-only catalog, an homage to J. Peterman, the real-life mail-order guru and the *Seinfeld* character played with such manly panache by John O'Hurley. A tip of the old urban sombrero to you, amigos.



The Queens Shield

of Armor Don't let a slight sag up front mask the fact that the heart of a stallion beats underneath.

Our Mansiere (call it the Bro, if you like) robustly signals your inner strength to the world. With this manly breastplate,

you're ready for battle. But as you proudly puff out your chest, whisper thanks to Cosmo K. and his inspiration, a Mr. Frank Costanza of Queens. (episode 98)



Non-Binding Agreement

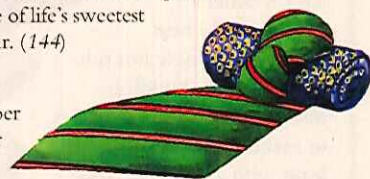
"Why be tied down," asked a rebel named Morty Seinfeld, "when you can break free of the chains that shackle you?" Morty's beltless trench coat, "The Executive," means easy breathing. Liberate thyself, ye slave to fashion! (7, 79)



Good Night, Sweet Prince

A chap who worked for the New York Yankees designed the prototype for this desk. The cunningly concealed alarm clock lets you take snoozes worthy of the Babe without worrying that bosses will sneak up on your lair to remind you of missed meetings. You'll awaken, refreshed, just in

time to savor some of life's sweetest moments. Like happy hour. (144)



Save Your Neck

Remember the drop of marinara on your power tie, the stain that helped put the kibosh on your latest financial conquest? We'll let you in on a secret: Happens to the best of us. An even better secret: Our Roll-Out Tie Dispenser. With one discreet tug, you can replace that disgrace with a pristine swath of fabric. (Note from our Mr. Kramer: He'll accept a commission on your next market coup. Cash only.) (5)

with someone you admire!" Admiration isn't the problem for Elaine: She wants to have sex with her new boyfriend, Billy, but reconsiders upon hearing that her cherished birth-control method, the Today sponge, has been taken off the market. Is he sponge-worthy? The question among Kramer's fellow AIDS fund-raisers is whether he's walk-worthy—he refuses to be bullied into wearing a red ribbon. Things turn ugly when Bob and Cedric (formerly Ray), who terrorized Kramer in the Soup Nazi episode, take up the ribbon cause.

GUEST STARS: Jennifer Guthrie (Lena), Paragon (Cedric), Scott Patterson (Billy), Vazquez (Bob) **HINTS FROM MR. SLIM & TRIM:** All-Tempe-Cheer detergent does a great job on shirts! Keep the same waist size you had in college by turning the 32" on your jeans label into a 31"! **THE SECRET OF SAFE SEX:** By the time George succeeds in opening a condom, he doesn't need one anymore. **RATING:** ★★ ★ Elaine's sponge-hoarding and confronting AIDS-ribbon bullying are both funny and brave, but the Saint Lena motif is far from heavenly.

THE GUM

E P I S O D E 1 1 4

PREMIERED: 12/14/95 **WRITERS:** Gammill, Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** The gang once again proves that mental health is overrated. Kramer takes under his wing Lloyd Braun, a recovering ex-Elaine boyfriend who suffered a nervous breakdown. At a movie theater being restored by Kramer, Elaine evades Lloyd by telling him that Jerry forgot his glasses. To keep the lie alive, Jerry dons disorienting lenses and makes, well, a spectacle of

Fresh as a Seagull

Inhale the frothy, pungent aroma of summer sand and surf, with its magnificent undertones of tanning oil and frankfurters. Thanks to the ingenious Mr. Kramer, we bring you the Beach, an aroma for the summer lover—the man who wants the world to know he's the master of the volleyball court, even in the dead of winter. We hail you, and smell you, bronze god. (31, 51)



Hats Off to You, Muchacha! A young lady we know, a Señorita Benes, beseeched us to fashion a topper that would

provide shelter in a world plagued with restless wildlife and falling debris. Always happy to indulge a lady friend, we crafted this

rugged Urban Sombrero for those days when you're too far from cool mountain zephyrs to indulge the urge to let your mane flow in the breeze. (127)

**An Idea With Legs**

The Smiths have coffee-table books about art. (How banal.) The Joneses have coffee table books about coffee. (They think they're being clever.) Do them one better with this tome on—what else?—coffee tables, brought to you by our most prolific inventor, a Mr. Kramer of Manhattan. (71, 82)

himself. And he pays a stiff price for Elaine's aversion to Lloyd: To get rid of the guy, he buys him Chinese gum, blindly using a \$100 bill. Meanwhile, Elaine keeps inadvertently flashing her boobs at the attentive Lloyd. But it's George's mental state that's in question when he meets an old high school chum, Deena. She tells George he displays signs of a mental breakdown, and his increasingly erratic behavior confirms what we already knew.

GUEST STARS: Cocreator Larry David is uncredited as a guy who sells gum to George. Mary Jo Keenan (Deena), Matt

McCoy (Lloyd Braun) **SEIN POSTS:** A rare exhibition of Jerry doing physical comedy. **RATING:** ★★ Even by *Seinfeld* standards, this gummed-up plot is tough to swallow.

THE RYE

EPISODE 115

PREMIERED: 01/04/96 **WRITER:** Carol Leifer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine is dating "sponge-worthy" jazz saxophonist John Germaine, but he "doesn't like to do everything." Unfortunately, he expands his repertoire to include the unspoken talent before an important gig and shatters his career. A second unuttered word wafts after Kramer feeds jumbo cans of Beef-A-Reeno to the horse that a buggy-driving friend has loaned him. Future in-laws the Costanzas and Rosses go to war over a marble rye that the stuffy Rosses decline to serve and the scruffy Costanzas "degift." Kramer tries to save the day by offering the Rosses a romantic ride in his hansom cab, but that hardly clears the air. **GUEST STARS:** Frances Bay (Bread Lady), Warren Frost (Mr. Ross), Grace Zabriskie (Mrs. Ross; all three were in *Twin Peaks*), Jeff Yagher (John Germaine) **MAYBE HE WAS ONCE DROPPED ON HIS HEAD:** George enlists Jerry to catch a new rye, which he can only do by mugging the old lady who nabs the last loaf at Schnitzer's Bakery. Jerry reenounters the woman in episode 118. **RATING:** ★★★ For deft handling of junior high topics.

THE CADDY

EPISODE 116

PREMIERED: 01/25/96 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George locks his keys in his car at work and waits for a free visit from a locksmith, but his bosses conclude he's working like a demon. (Later, though, they find what appear to be bloodstains and assume he's dead.) Elaine tries to take revenge on high school nemesis Sue Ellen Mischke, "the braless wonder" and Oh-Henry! candy-bar heiress, by buying her a bra. But Kramer and Jerry smash George's car when they see Sue Ellen wearing the bra as a top in public. Handling their court case against Sue Ellen, lawyer Jackie Chiles lifts up the evidence and yells, "If the bra fits, you must acquit!" **GUEST STARS:** Morris (Jackie Chiles), Brenda Strong (Sue Ellen Mischke) **FASHION FORWARD:** Sue Ellen's innerwear as outerwear becomes a J. Peterman catalog offering. **RATING:** ★★★ A clever O.J. parody that acquits itself very well.

THE SEVEN

EPISODE 117

PREMIERED: 02/01/96 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Life is annoying! A frustrated Jerry likens new gal pal Christie to a superhero because she only wears one outfit: a black and white dress. George and Susan argue about baby names with Susan's cousins, Ken and Carrie, who later poach George's favorite name (Seven, after idol Mickey Mantle's jersey number) for their child. Elaine injures her neck getting a girl's bike down from a store wall. In agony, she promises her bike to anyone who can fix her neck but reneges when Kramer comes to her rescue. Newman arbitrates the Elaine-Kramer bike dispute with a Solomonic decision. **GUEST STARS:** Ken Hudson Campbell (Ken), Lisa Deanne (Christie), Shannon Holt (Carrie), Knight (Newman) **NAME THAT TYKE:** George also likes the unisex name Soda for a child. **CREATIVE ACCOUNTING:** Kramer devises an inventory system to track his mooching from Jerry, then leaves half-eaten stuff around to avoid paying the full tab. **RATING:** ★★ The sub-par plot is undermined by Newman's too long, over-the-top Solomonic bit.

THE CADILLACEPISODE 118
ONE HOUR

PREMIERED: 02/08/96 **WRITERS:** David, Jerry **Seinfeld** **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry proves again that no good deed goes unpunished. After returning from a lucrative gig, he buys his father a Cadillac, which he takes to Florida. The vehicle leads to petty jealousies and Nixonian impeachment proceedings against condo association president Morty Seinfeld. The swing vote? Mrs. Choate, the lady Jerry mugged for her rye bread three episodes back. George finagles a date with actress Marisa Tomei, who ends up slugging him when he admits he's "sort of" engaged. His fiancée, Susan, suspects he's having an affair with Elaine, but she's busy being fascinated by the newly flush Jerry. Back in Florida, Morty and Helen leave their community in disgrace in a scene evoking Nixon's exit from the White House. **GUEST STARS:** Bay (Bread Lady), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Marisa Tomei (as herself) **WELCOME BACK:** The all-purpose name Art Vandelay returns as the fictitious boyfriend George creates for Elaine to defuse Susan's jealousy. **RATING:** ★★★ The date with Tomei and riffs on Florida retirees are sharp, but the return of the Bread Lady is loaf-out-loud funny.

THE SHOWER HEAD

EPISODE 119

PREMIERED: 02/15/96 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Marjorie Gross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** His exiled parents move into Uncle Leo's apartment, and Jerry suffers separation anxiety: He's nervous when he can't maintain the 1,200-mile Florida-to-New York "buffer zone." Helen and Morty Seinfeld try to create their own comfort area by convincing the Costanzas not to live anywhere near them. Elaine unhappily stays put—and loses her job—when she's disqualified from a J. Peterman

PROSS DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Susan is convinced that Jerry and Sally, her college roommate from Memphis, will hit it off. Yeah, right. Instead of endearing herself, Sally brings Jerry the wrong barbecue sauce from the South. If he can't go on *Charles Grodin* carrying a bottle with a label that looks like the talk-show host, then he has "nothin'." Jerry complains. He copes by planning on using a doll that looks like Estelle Costanza, but Sally blows that one, too. Elaine and Kramer commit their own gaffes by spilling food

nent foursome. Kramer's experiments with "Da Vinci sleep" result in some rude awakenings. Jerry hopes to join the Friars Club, but his prospective membership hangs on missing threads: a club jacket he borrowed. Elaine is put out when J. Peterman hires the deaf Bob Grossberg and then dumps extra work on her because Bob never hears assignments. She thinks the deaf thing is an act. **GUEST STARS:** O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Rob Schneider (Bob), Samantha Smith (Hallie), Swedberg (Susan) **SMALL BUSINESS MINISTRATIONS:** Kramer wants to open a restaurant that serves only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches called



When Thomas auditioned for the Soup Nazi role, "Jerry Seinfeld was cracking up. That was the greatest feeling ever, because I'm acting, but in the back of my head, there's this little voice going, 'You're making Jerry Seinfeld laugh.'"

trip to Africa after flunking a drug test. (Her undoing: poppy-seed muffins.) Elaine is reinstated after she borrows a urine sample. Meanwhile, Newman and Kramer replace legally mandated low-flow showerheads with black-market blasters. **GUEST STARS:** Estelle Harris (Estelle), Knight (Newman), Jay Leno (as himself), Len Lesser (Uncle Leo), Martin (Morty), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman) Sheridan (Helen), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **BEDSIDE MANNERS:** As Elaine's cousin Katie lies ill in the hospital, George harasses her for Marisa Tomei's phone number. **SEIN POSTS:** On his second *Tonight Show* appearance, Jerry manages to insult Uncle Leo for a change. **RATING:** ★★ ★ Episodes with the 'rents bring out the full glory of Jerry's and George's neuroses.

THE DOLL

EPISODE 120

PREMIERED: 02/22/96 **WRITERS:** Gammill,

on the Maestro (Elaine) and ruining his baton (Kramer). Even Estelle missteps: She freaks out when she walks in on her husband, Kramer and the Maestro playing pool with their pants off in George's cramped former bedroom. **GUEST STARS:** Kathy Griffin (Sally Weaver), Harris (Estelle), Metcalf (Maestro) **HELLO, DOLLIE!** George's make-believe mom, actress Estelle Harris, has kept the doll, although she thinks the sides of its face are flatter than hers. **RATING:** ★ Elaine's lament to Jerry, "Why don't you write some new material?" speaks for an episode that's pretty much got nothin'.

THE FRIARS CLUB

EPISODE 121

PREMIERED: 03/07/96 **WRITER:** Mandel

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** George is ecstatic over a three-month wedding delay. He plays matchmaker for Jerry and Susan's friend Hallie, hoping for a perma-

PB&J's. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SHOW ABOUT NOTHING! Prospective spouses George and Susan, with little to say to each other, discuss his shoelaces. **RATING:** ★ Would persnickety Jerry really forget to return a jacket? And the deaf jokes make you wish you were hard of hearing.

THE WIG MASTER

EPISODE 122

PREMIERED: 04/04/96 **WRITER:**

Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Lots of clothes encounters. When Jerry buys an expensive sports coat, Craig the snooty Brit clerk hits on Elaine, luring her with promises of discounts. Jerry later tries to return the jacket out of "spite." The wig master for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," George's irritating house guest, lets Kramer borrow the backup Electric Color Dreamcoat. That,

plus his borrowed pink Cadillac, gets Super-Fly Cosmo busted for pimping when he gets into a spat with a hooker who was sleeping in the car. **GUEST STARS:** Patrick Bristow (Wig Master), Harry Van Gorkum (Craig), Gina Mastrogiacomio (Prostitute) **INVISIBLE MAN:** Jerry's male ego is bruised when Elaine and then the flamboyant wig master are asked out while he's right by them. **RATING:** ★★ Nifty plotting, but enough already with coats, cars and parking.

THE CALZONE

EPISODE 123

PREMIERED: 04/25/96 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** George shares his eggplant calzone with Steinbrenner, who becomes addicted. But George's boss-bonding is imperiled when he's banned from the pizzeria for stealing tips. Jerry cashes in on his beautiful girlfriend Nicki's ability to use her looks to get

"A LOT OF PEOPLE COULDN'T BELIEVE THEY KILLED ME. SOME THOUGHT IT WAS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT. I THINK IT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL COMEDY. WHAT A GREAT WAY TO GO."

—Heidi Swedberg, on licking her last envelope as Susan Biddle Ross

anything she wants, including tickets for a sold-out movie. Elaine goes out with Todd Gack, who refuses to admit they are "dating" despite taking her to dinner with his parents. This "dating loophole" allows him to avoid rejection. When Todd sells Jerry some Peruvian "Cuban" cigars, Jerry sends Nicki to get his money back. She and Todd hit it off, and the two decide to dump Jerry and Elaine. They deserve each other. **GUEST STARS:** Peter Allas (Pizzeria Guy), John D'Aquino (Todd), Danette Tays (Nicki) **HEAT AND DUST:** Kramer discovers the joy of prewarmed clothes but torches them in the pizzeria's oven. **RATING: ★★★** Crammed with quintessential *Seinfeld* themes such as George's cheapness, Jerry's self-absorption, Elaine's dating disasters and Kramer's obsessions.

THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT

EPISODE 124
(ONE HOUR)

PREMIERED: 05/02/96 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** J. Peterman authorizes Elaine to bid up to \$10,000 for JFK's golf clubs at an auction of President Kennedy's belongings (an allusion to the Jackie O. frenzy), but Elaine tries to outbid high school nemesis Sue Ellen Mischke (seen in episode 116) and ends up spending \$20,000. Elaine leaves the clubs in Jerry's car, but then Jerry's obsessive mechanic, Tony, abducts the vehicle because Jerry doesn't baby it properly. Luckily, Kramer and Newman, on their way to Michigan to get the deposits on a postal truck full of soda bottles, spot Jerry's car in Ohio. They give chase as Tony heaves JFK's clubs at them. **GUEST STARS:** Brad Garrett (Tony), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (J. Peterman) Strong (Sue Ellen) **ST. ELSEWHERE:** Steinbrenner mistakenly commits George to a mental hospital. **RATING: ★** As usual, the script suffers when the characters leave the Big Apple.

THE WAIT OUT

EPISODE 125

PREMIERED: 05/09/96 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Matt Selman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine and Jerry each have been waiting out David and Beth's marriage, waiting for a chance to date the newly datable, so when George utters a "folksy" remark that may have caused their breakup, Elaine and Jerry stop him from apologizing. Later, when David and Elaine, on a date, run into George and his fiancée, Susan, David nastily pays George back. George gleefully thinks Susan will dump him now, but no such luck. Jerry and Elaine are luckless, too: Beth and David reunite. **GUEST STARS:** Cary Elwes (David); Debra Messing (Beth), Swedberg (Susan) **THAT CALVIN KLEIN BODY:** Kramer buys a pair of jeans in his old size and can barely walk or move. **RATING: ★★** Unfunny shallowness from Elaine and Jerry, but the Kramer tight-pants subplot is side-splitting.

THE INVITATIONS

EPISODE 126

PREMIERED: 05/16/96 **WRITER:** David **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Is cheapness a fatal flaw?

Ask Susan. George is saved from his dreaded nuptials after he insists his fiancée buy the least expensive wedding-invitation envelopes. After licking their toxic glue, Susan collapses and ends up at the big altar in the sky. Just as George eludes the Grim Uniter, Jerry falls in love. Contemplating old age with Kramer, Jerry meets Jeannie Steinman. She has his initials, loves cereal and Superman, and enjoys riffing on subjects like brunch and shirt collars. Jerry thinks he's in love ("Now I know what I've been waiting for all these years: myself.") and proposes. Then he comes to his senses. Jeannie is too much like him and, as he suddenly remembers, "I hate myself." **GUEST STARS:** Janeane Garofalo (Jeannie), writer-producer Carol Leifer as a bank employee, Swedberg (Susan). The real George Steinbrenner shot some scenes that were later edited out. **COMEBACK KID:** George quickly recovers from his "grief" and tries hitting on Marisa Tomei again, to no avail. **RATING: ★★★★★** The female Jerry and schmaltzy love-scene parody are inspired, as is the reversal of George's and Jerry's marital status. As for Susan's controversial demise: It gives you either a belly laugh or bellyache.



Before Newman (Knight) finally emerged on-camera, his voice was provided by co-creator David.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

Kramer

Rubber-faced and amoeba-limbed Cosmo Kramer leads a charmed existence. Free of the angst that riddles Jerry, George and Elaine, Kramer speaks freely and follows his whims and usually lands on his feet. He'll do just about anything, so long as the doing doesn't involve working a conventional job or buying his own groceries.

Blessed with the "kavorka," an inexplicable animal magnetism, the high-haired Kramer is an unlikely "chick magnet" who attracts women from nuns to prostitutes to librarians to supermodels. "I drive them to lesbianism," George notes ruefully. "He brings them back." Money rains down on him, usually from unlikely sources such as modeling Calvin Klein underwear or getting a film deal out of a coffee-table book that folds into a coffee table.

As George observes when Kramer goes off to baseball fantasy camp, Kramer's real life is everyone's fantasy: "People should plunk down \$2,000 to live like him for a week. Do nothing, fall ass backwards into money, mooch food...have sex without dating." Only innocent bystanders fall prey to Kramer's wacky genius. Good karma? "No, that's Kramer!" says his biggest enabler, Jerry, whenever Cosmo-induced chaos reigns.

NICKNAMES: The K-Man, Assman

THE EARLY YEARS: At 17, he left home and jumped on a steamship bound for Sweden. Was once a compulsive gambler. Now estranged from his mother, Babs Kramer, an alcoholic who worked as a bathroom matron.

WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR: An exceedingly handsome man

WHAT OTHERS SPOT: "A hipster dufus," although Calvin Klein execs admire his physique, especially his "sublime buttocks."

TRADEMARK MOVE I: "A huge pop-in guy" (Jerry's description), he arrives via aggressive slide (or stumble) into Jerry's apartment.

TRADEMARK MOVE II: The full-body X-treme double-take

TRADEMARK MOVE III: Taking food out of Jerry's fridge, then complaining about it

FAVORITE EXPRESSIONS: The all-purpose "giddy-up!"; "do me a solid," a big favor.

PSEUDONYMS: Martin or Peter Van Nostrand

WHAT HE'D NAME A CHILD: Isosceles

INVENTIONS: Fictitious corporation Krameria Industries, which qualified for an NYU intern; the Bro; the Beach; a sand-filled mattress; coffee-table coffee table book; etc.

UNFORTUNATE EXPERIMENTS: His attempt at Da Vinci sleep—20 minutes every three hours—nearly gets him killed when he nods off during sex with a mob-connected woman. His use of butter as an aftershave gets him fried—literally—when he sunbathes on the roof.

CAREER HIGH POINTS: Underwear model for Calvin Klein; bagel maker; ball boy at U.S. Open; actor (he had one line in a Woody Allen movie—

"These pretzels are making me thirsty"—but was fired); serial killer (a case of mistaken identity)

SEXUAL PECCADILLOES: Likes to be on the bottom during sex; believes "nothing's sexier than a woman behind the wheel of a semi."

LONGEST-LASTING RELATIONSHIP: Probably with Newman

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE

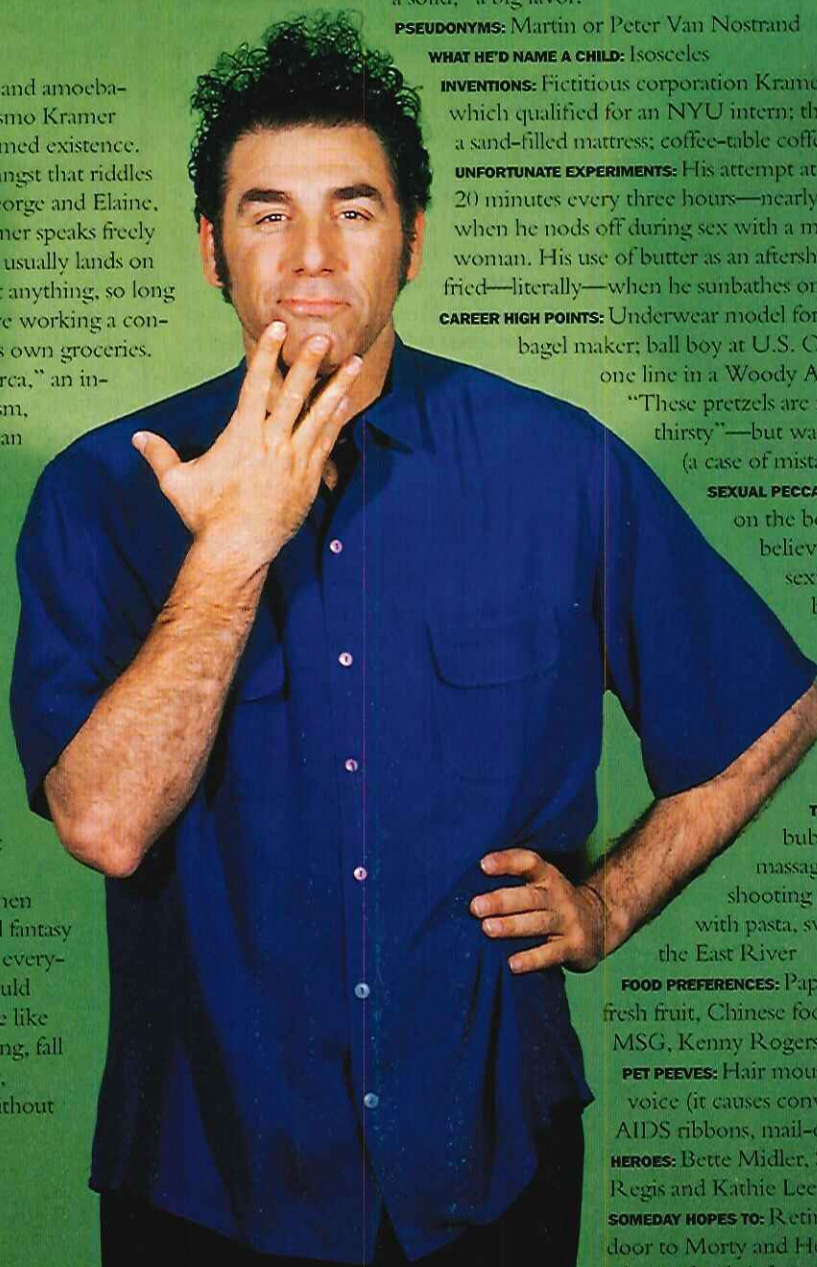
THINGS: Cigars, bubble baths, opera, massage, golf, karate, shooting pool, sculpting with pasta, swimming in the East River

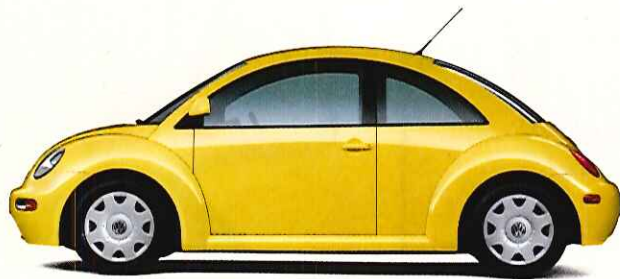
FOOD PREFERENCES: Papaya King hot dogs, fresh fruit, Chinese food with extra MSG, Kenny Rogers Roasters

PET PEEVES: Hair mousse, Mary Hart's voice (it causes convulsions), wallets, AIDS ribbons, mail-order catalogs

HEROES: Bette Midler, Salman Rushdie, Regis and Kathie Lee, Murphy Brown

SOMEDAY HOPES TO: Retire in Florida next door to Morty and Helen Seinfeld, a dream that briefly comes true in the ninth season. But really, what is there to retire from?





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1 9 9 6 - 1 9 9 7

A new season, a new cultural watershed—one good yada deserves another—but the keepsakes from this batch of episodes are fewer and farther between as the show continues on a zany track to all-out surreality. Although sometimes as jarring as the spastic dance that Elaine will never be able to live down, *Seinfeld* in its eighth season still manages to hit creative highs other shows merely dream about.

It doesn't get better than "The Yada Yada," in which verbal shorthand is used to gloss over a variety of sins and a dentist's conversion to Judaism is

seen by Jerry as a sinister bid for "total joke-telling immunity."

And consider "The Bizarro Jerry," an instant classic that aired within the first month of the season, applying the Superman concept of mirror-image opposites to the controversy that lingered after last season's cruel fiancée-killing finale. For all those who had wondered what life would be like if the gang curbed their mean-spirited impulses, here was a group of sedate nice guys who never rocked the boat.

Who needs them? Not even Elaine, who earlier in the episode had wailed to Jerry, "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event." Jerry gave the correct response: "Why not?"

Why not, indeed. The show was by now such an ingrained habit for viewers that even as naysayers carped that it had lost something in the wake of Larry David's departure, awards were still bestowed (Michael Richards won his third Emmy), and ratings continued to soar on Thursdays and for the nightly repeats in syndication.

Anyone doubting the show's cultural impact need look no further than the reality behind Kramer's giddy Peterman Reality Tour, which was inspired by the real-life New York City tourist attraction run by Kenny Kramer. Not for the faint of heart, obviously.



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THE FOUNDATION

EPISODE 127

PREMIERED: 09/19/96 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** George pays his final respects to Susan, then buries the grieving process. "Three long months," he notes ruefully. "Summer months, too. Anybody could grieve in January." But who knew that Susan was worth millions? Her parents rope George into sitting on the board of a foundation created in her memory. Kramer studies karate, and Elaine funnels her energy into running the J. Peterman catalog while her boss recovers from burnout in Burma. Jerry briefly reunites with Dolores/Mulva, whose body parts still aren't rhyming with any of his. **GUEST STARS:** Bruce Davison (Wyck the foundation president), Jancane Garofalo (Jerry's ex-gal pal Jeannie), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Susan Walters (Dolores) **SEIN POSTS:** The first episode sans Larry David adds physical comedy (Kramer's karate montage) and dumps Jerry's traditional stand-up comedy opener. **THE GIFT OF GARB:** Elaine fashions a J. Peterman classic: the Urban Sombrero. **RATING:** ★★ It's a kick to watch Kramer work his mojo on a dojo full of kids, but boss Elaine marks the start of her decline from delightfully neurotic to annoyingly shrill.

THE SOUL MATE

EPISODE 128

PREMIERED: 09/26/96 **WRITER:** Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Everyone's trying to outguess everyone else. George is convinced that Wyck, the foundation head, thinks he killed Susan and that Wyck is plotting to prove it. Elaine meets a guy named Kevin, who shares her feeling that having kids is overrated. Kramer enlists Cyrano-like help from a suddenly poetical Newman while wooing Jerry's girlfriend, Pam, who also doesn't want children. When Elaine tells the vasectomized Kevin that she might want a family after all, he heads to a clinic to get his operation reversed and runs into guys seeking snips: Jerry (for Pam), Newman (for Elaine) and Kramer (also for Pam). Ouch. **GUEST STARS:** Davison (Wyck), Tim DeKay (Kevin), Wayne Knight (Newman), Kim Myers (Pam) **TRESS FRACTURE:** Elaine starts the show with her trademark curly coif, but by the end, she has

THE LYIN' KING

George's credo: "It's not a lie if you believe it." Trouble is, too often other people don't. Still, you've got to hand it to the guy: He's got imagination and unmatched moxie. (When pal Gary confesses to a fib, George responds, "Just one? I'm living, like, 20.") Here are the top 10 efforts from *Seinfeld's* master of fantasy.

- 10. Crime Story** Turned on by conjugal visits with his jailbird gal, George tells the warden she'll return to a life of crime if paroled. (episode 137)
- 9. Racial Blur** George didn't cause the damage to his dad's car—it was that driver yelling racial epithets from his swastika-covered automobile. (60)
- 8. Whale of a Tale** A tag-team effort: Jerry helps hook George up with college buddy Diane by



telling her that George is now a marine biologist. And George can walk the walk: He dislodges a golf ball from a whale's blow hole. (75)

- 7. Time to Confess** George steals his girlfriend's alarm clock, then hides it in a paper bag. He claims it's a sandwich. Then the alarm goes off. (134)

- 6. White Lie** George makes up a boyhood pal, Whitey Fisk, his "summer Jerry," who supposedly snuck him in to see "Last Tango in Paris." To this day, he hasn't seen the Brando movie. (153)

- 5. Dead Wrong** After a death in his girlfriend's family, George needs a death-certificate copy to get the bereavement-rate plane fare. He tells a doctor that he's crafting a "scrapbook" for Betsy. (57)

- 4. Sex, Lies and Videotape** George tries to get out of a relationship by claiming he's gay. That fails, so he tells her he's porn star Buck Naked. (55)

- 3. Pants on Fire** Smoke pours from an ATM center, but George, to protect his secret code, tells J. Peterman he can't save the man trapped inside because he isn't carrying his ATM card. (111)

- 2. Artful Dodger** George pulls out trusty pseudonym Art Vandelay and a fake job whenever he needs it. Our favorite: "importer-exporter." (2)

- 1. Mission Accomplish** George helps Elaine renege on being legal guardian to a friend's child; he alternately tells the kid's mom that Elaine is going to live with her grandparents in Reading, Pennsylvania; she's being deported to Scotland; and she has been chosen to represent the Upper West Side in the next Biosphere project—which is underwater—for charity. (He adds, "I'm also an architect.") (152)

broken six years of tradition and wears it chopped short and straight. **RATING:** ★★ It's hard to find one really solid laugh here. And those manic chase scenes (Jerry/Newman) haven't worked since *The Monkees*.

THE BIZARRO JERRY

EPISODE 129

PREMIERED: 10/03/96 **WRITER:** David Mandel **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Suddenly everyone but Jerry gets a life: Kramer stumbles into a job at an investment firm; George discovers the secret of dating supermodels; and Elaine starts hanging with a trio of guys who are Kramer, George and Jerry's opposites. In Bizarro World, the menfolk are courteous and (*gasp!*) read all the time. Jerry can't cope: Kramer comes home late from his faux job and finds Jerry sitting alone in the dark, a neglected hausfrau. Order is finally restored to the *Seinfeld* universe when Elaine gives Bizarro Jerry one of her big shoves and he crumples. **GUEST STARS:** DeKay (back this time as Bizarro Jerry), Kyle T. Hefner (B. George), Pat Kilbane (B. Kramer) **ELAINE CHANGE:** Pledging her allegiance to Bizarro World, Elaine says, "I can't spend the rest of my life coming into this stinking apartment every 10 minutes to pore over the excruciating minutiae of every single daily event." **NEARLY BELOVED:** George captures the interest of a gorgeous receptionist by showing her the picture of a total stranger and claiming she's his dead wife. **RATING:** ★★★ An episode in which everything is opposites, and it attracts.

THE LITTLE KICKS

EPISODE 130

PREMIERED: 10/10/96 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** At a J. Peterman party, Elaine takes over the dance floor, and it isn't pretty. Describing the horror to Jerry later, George says, "It was more like a full-body dry heave set to music." Elaine's staff starts openly mocking her at the office. Kramer's bootlegger friend, Brody, persuades Jerry to secretly videotape movies in theaters; when Jerry's work is hailed on the streets, he develops auteurist airs. Trying to enhance his bad-boy image for Anna, a J. Peterman employee, George takes over the bootleg taping and gets arrested. **GUEST STARS:** Neil Giuntoli (Brody), Rebecca McFarland (Anna) **CATCHPHRASES THAT NEVER CAUGHT**

ON: "Sweet fancy Moses!" used by George and Jerry, when reacting to Elaine's dry-heave stylings. **FLASHDANCE:** Jerry, in a rare flashback, remembers the first time he saw Elaine mangle a rug.

AUTO-UNEROTIC: George discovers that the orthopedic pillow in his father's GTO is not a babe magnet. **RATING:** ★★ George trying to act *baaad* and Elaine's lurch are the episode's only memorable moments.

THE PACKAGE

EPISODE 131

PREMIERED: 10/17/96 **WRITER:** Jennifer Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman

STORY: When Sheila, an attractive blonde at the photo store, implies she has been checking out George's pictures, he decides to communicate with her via photo. But his suggestive underwear poses end up in the wrong photo-shop clerk's hands. Elaine disputes her doctor's characterization of her as "difficult," only to discover that she then can't get a doctor anywhere in the free world to take her seriously. Jerry lets Kramer lure him into a mail-fraud scheme that is cracked by Newman, who puts George's racy pictures to good use.

GUEST STARS: Heather Campbell (Sheila), Knight (Newman) **BE**

GRATEFUL FOR XXL BLESSINGS: George strips down to boxers, not briefs.

CLOSEST THEY'LL GET TO CASTING SHARON

STONE: Newman's interrogation of Jerry is an apparent homage to the "Basic Instinct" scene in which Knight cross-examined Sharon Stone while she artfully uncrossed her legs. **RATING:** ★★ There's a hideous grandeur to George's only brush with cheesecake that he can't eat, but this isn't one for the *Seinfeld* photo album.

THE FATIGUES

EPISODE 132

PREMIERED: 10/31/96 **WRITERS:** Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** A show about mentors and protégés. Jerry is dating Abby, whose mentor is Cynthia, who is dating Bania, whose comedy act stinks and who becomes Jerry's protégé. After Abby breaks up with Cynthia, Cynthia breaks up with Bania, Abby breaks up with Jerry, and Jerry breaks everybody up with some well-rounded Ovaltine material. George has let the Yankees think he's an expert in the field of risk management but presents the Ovaltine bit by mistake at a company do. Elaine mentors a psychotic, fatigues-

wearing mail clerk. Kramer finally finds his mentor in Frank Costanza, who helps him cook such delicacies as kreplach and tzimmes for 183 Jewish singles. **GUEST**

STARS: Ned Bellamy (Eddie), Stephen Hytner (Bania), Knight (Newman), A.J. Langer (Abby), Katie Layman (Cynthia), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **TECHNICALLY IT WAS A**

POLICE ACTION: Although Estelle Costanza

every time you turn on a TV, all you see is four morons sitting around an apartment whining about their dates." At their first pitch meeting, a Japanese TV exec orders them out of his office. In the second, one of the Japanese tourists Kramer has taken in as a boarder tells the exec, "Jerry Seinfeld is a dangerous lunatic." **GUEST STAR:** James Patrick Stuart (Brett) **SEIN POST:** We learn that Jerry not only supported himself during his early years in show business by selling



The episode 127 season opener showed a new, post-Larry David trend: More physical comedy, like the K-man's karate kick.

remains a closed book, we learn more about Frank's profoundly troubled experiences in the Korean War (see the manicurist incident in episode 104). **RATING:** ★★ Kramer's tsouris over tzimmes, his kvetching over kreplach: He's funny, that boy. Oy.

THE CHECKS

EPISODE 133

PREMIERED: 11/07/96 **WRITERS:** Steve

O'Donnell, Tom Gammill, Max Pross **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine hooks up with Brett, a good-looking, Ferrari-driving guy. But the yuppie dreamboat refuses to let "his" song (the Eagles' "Desperado") become "their" song. He keeps assuming that Jerry is a down-on-his-luck loser, which all available evidence here confirms. Kramer suggests that Jerry cash in on his new fame in Japan (from his turn on *Super Terrific Happy Hour*) by selling the Jerry show pilot to Japanese television. George agrees, but Jerry points out that NBC hated it. "It failed here," George counters, "because here

umbrellas on the street but that he invented (he claims) the practice of twirling them to attract attention. **RATING:** ★★ Whatever happened to letting a smile be your umbrella?

THE CHICKEN ROASTER

EPISODE 134

PREMIERED: 11/14/96 **WRITERS:** Berg,

Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine has been putting all major household purchases on her J. Peterman expense account, until the company's accountant tells her she's finished if she doesn't return a sable hat she charged for George. He has used the hat as a "leave-behind" to assure himself a second date with salesgirl Heather, but she insists she doesn't have the hat. When Kenny Rogers Roasters erects a huge crimson neon sign outside Kramer's window, his apartment becomes a red menace. In an unfathomable plot contrivance, he persuades Jerry to change apartments with him; hypnotized by the light, Jerry begins to talk and act like Kramer, and

"I'M HONORED THAT WHEN THEY WERE CASTING THE MOST ANNOYING PERSON IN THE WORLD, THEY CHOSE ME."—Stephen Hytner, on playing Kenny Bania

vice versa. **GUEST STARS:** Catherine Lloyd Burns (Heather), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (Peterman), Mark Roberts (Seth) **WHY SEINFELD ISN'T CALLED FRIENDS:** After Jerry convinces his college friend Seth to blow off a business meeting, the guy gets fired from his job at an investment firm. **FOOD NEVER LIES:** Jerry catches Newman picking up an order that includes a side of broccoli, a sure sign that Kramer's Roasters boycott has folded. When Newman insists the broccoli is really for him, Jerry waves him off: "Newman, you wouldn't eat broccoli if it was deep-fried in chocolate sauce."

RATING: ★ Nothing works here, least of all the "Apocalypse Now" parody, when Elaine searches Burma for Peterman as Brando. The horror, indeed.

THE ABSTINENCE

EPISODE 135

PREMIERED: 11/21/96 **WRITER:** Steve Koren
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Dating a woman who won't have sex sharpens George's faculties, but abstinence makes Elaine "a moron." Meanwhile, Kramer shows his smarts after Jerry gets bumped from Career Day at his old junior high. Kramer suggests the school might be trying to screw with his head. "Now

why would a junior high school want to screw with my head?" Jerry asks. Kramer replies, "Why does Radio Shack ask for your phone number when you buy batteries?" Later, Kramer is reunited with attorney Jackie Chiles in a lawsuit against tobacco companies for ruining his face after he ran a smoking lounge in his apartment for three days. Jerry asks him what he expected. "Emphysema, birth defects, cancer, but not this!" wheezes the K-man. "Look away, I'm hideous!"

GUEST STARS: Phil Morris (Jackie Chiles); Derek Jeter, David Letterman, Alex Trebek and Bernie Williams (as themselves in a *Late Show* closing segment). **SCHOLASTIC HARVEST OF SHAME:** It's revealed that the junior high Jerry and George attended was named for CBS News legend Edward R. Murrow. **RATING:** ★★ Some exceptionally clever dialogue, but it seems like we've heard this one before.

THE ANDREA DORIA

EPISODE 136

PREMIERED: 12/19/96 **WRITER:** Feresten
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Kramer gets in touch with his inner puppy. Reluctant to visit an M.D., Kramer picks up medicine from a vet when he notices his cough is similar to a passing dog's. Jerry forces a

pill down his throat, takes Kramer for a ride and yells "Bad neighbor!" The K-nine runs away, then leads policemen to a restaurant where a woman is beating up a man. That would be Elaine: Her new boyfriend Alan's cruel remarks have made her sensitive about "my giant freak head. I'm a walkin' candy apple." Newman isn't walking anywhere because Kramer has bitten him on the ankle, so Jerry agrees to deliver the mail. That's trouble because Jerry gets 80 percent of the mail to the correct addresses. "Nobody from the post office has ever cracked the 50 percent barrier," Newman barks.

GUEST STARS: Tom Gallop (Alan), Knight (Newman) **MY LIFE AS A DOG:** George tries to get an apartment by acing out a survivor of the *Andrea Doria* shipwreck. He intends to convince the tenant board that "the story of my life as a short, stocky, slow-witted bald man" is more pathetic than a shipwreck victim's. "I can go bumper to bumper with anyone on this planet," he assures Jerry. **RATING:** ★★ Elaine's big head doesn't get in the way of the fun, but something is beginning to feel awfully familiar.

THE LITTLE JERRY

EPISODE 137

PREMIERED: 01/09/97 **WRITER:** Crittenden
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Doing foundation work, George meets a female inmate, and they hit it off ("I have relatively no competition!"). Conjugal sex becomes unnecessary when chain-ganged Celia busts out and flees to George ("The breakout pop-in," Jerry notes). Kramer skirts the law himself when he gets a cockfighting rooster and names it Little Jerry Seinfeld. At a match, Big Jerry stops watching Little Jerry long enough to caution Elaine that her life would change if she marries new beau Kurt. "It's 3:30 in the morning, I'm at a cockfight," she replies. "What am I clinging to?" **GUEST STARS:** Andrea Bendewald (Celia), John Michael Higgins (Kurt), Kathryn Joosten (Betsy the warden) **THE BALD TRUTH:** Elaine dates a guy who gives up shaving his head for her, only to discover that he's losing his hair. She dumps Kurt because by the time he's out of prison (her fault), he'll be really bald. **HOW LOW CAN HE GO?** Fearing his prison visits will end when Celia is



Miguel Sandoval plays doliman-cockfight mogul Marcelino in episode 137, as Kramer runs a fowl of the law.

paroled, George torpedoes her release by implying to the warden that Celia's eager to get back to a life of crime. **RATING: ★★★** And you thought your life was twisted.

THE MONEY

EPISODE 138

PREMIERED: 01/16/97 **WRITER:** Mehlman
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry, George and Elaine check the bottom line: Elaine's riding high as the new president of J. Peterman ("I've got stock options" she brags); Jerry's parents, Helen and Morty, think he's broke and sell the Caddy that he gave them to jerky Jack Klompus so Jerry can get his money back; George covets the family nest egg after running the actuarial tables on his parents. Of course, Frank and Estelle go on a spending spree, Elaine loses her job, and Jerry gets hosed trying to buy back the Caddy. **GUEST STARS:** Sandy Baron (Jack Klompus), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan (Helen), Sarah Silverman (Emily), Stiller (Frank) **COSMO NAUGHT:** Kramer can't get a good night's sleep with Emily's snuggling "Jimmy legs" poking him. **SEIN POSTS:** We learn Jerry's dad sold raincoats in the garment district for 30 years and that George's parents have slept in separate beds for that long. **RATINGS: ★★★** Cadillac setups with economy-car payoffs.

THE COMEBACK

EPISODE 139

PREMIERED: 01/16/97 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** David Owen Trainor **STORY:** When George gets zinged during a Yankees staff meeting for stuffing shrimp in his mouth ("Hey, George, the ocean called. They're running out of shrimp!"), he plots to nail the insulter with a topper. The best he can come up with: "The jerk store called, and they're running outta you!" Kramer, meanwhile, writes a living will, naming Elaine executor. When Jerry discovers that Milos the tennis-shop pro has no game, the disgraced ace sends his wife to Jerry "as some sort of medieval sexual payola." This leads to Kramer's getting knocked unconscious by tennis balls, then waking up in the hospital with Elaine standing over him, plug in hand. **GUEST STARS:** Mark Harelik (Milos), Ben Stein (Shellbach) **DEATH SENTENCES:** Elaine, Kramer and Kramer's lawyer, Shellbach, go over the possible conditions for pulling the plug.

"You have liver, kidneys, and gallbladder, but no central nervous system." Yank it. "One lung, blind, and you're eating through a tube." Adios. "You can eat, but machines do everything else." Kramer decides to give that one a try: "I could still go to the coffee shop." **RATING: ★** Go ahead, pull the plug. We dare you.

THE VAN BUREN BOYS

EPISODE 140

PREMIERED: 02/06/97 **WRITER:** Darin Henry
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Losers abound! Jerry fears his "fantastic" new girlfriend, Ellen, is really a friendless pariah when he realizes their first date is also her birthday. George picks his alter ego—an over-weight, balding,



Jason Alexander started flogging Rold Gold pretzels on TV in September 1993, the same month George munched them in episode 64. Hellooo, product placement!

lying loser (named Steven Koren in honor of a *Seinfeld* writer)—as the first Susan Ross Foundation scholar. Elaine,

while ghost-writing Peterman's bio, realizes her seemingly adventurous boss is a closet bore who clips coupons, lets his plants die and lives in an apartment that has

all the visual splendor of a Best Western. Kramer sells anecdotes from his life for use in the book. Price: \$750. **GUEST STARS:** O'Hurley (Peterman), Jed Rhein (Steven), Christine Taylor (Ellen) **SEIN LANGUAGE:** Which came first, Jerry's "buh-bye" or David Spade's *Saturday Night Live* bit? **WAIT'LL THE CRIPS HEAR ABOUT THIS:** The scholarship kid returns by show's end to threaten George, accompanied by members of a street gang named after the forgettable eighth U.S. President, Martin Van Buren. **RATING: ★★** High concept, middling entertainment.

THE SUSIE

EPISODE 141

PREMIERED: 02/13/97 **WRITER:** Mandel
DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Doppelgängers and cases of mistaken identity haunt the paranoid quartet. Elaine is mistaken for a nonexistent colleague named Susie. George fears he's about to be dumped by girlfriend Allison and winds up with Kramer as his proxy date at a Yankees party. Meanwhile, Jerry is mistaken for a hitman by a thuggish bookie wannabe, Mike. When Elaine decides to kill off her evil twin and "hitman" Jerry is mistakenly blamed, she's stunned to find Susie's funeral an A-list event with mourners like Peterman, who claims to have slept with the ghostly gal. **GUEST STARS:** Lee Arenberg (Mike), Shannon Kenny (Allison), O'Hurley (Peterman) **LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING:** Kramer and George achieve more than laughs with their romantic behavior at the party. A rare moment of pathos. **TWO-TIMING:** Tired of waiting for

daylight savings time, Kramer sets his watch back one hour. **RATING: ★★★** Thin plot, but George's *Greatest American Hero* answering-machine message is hilariously annoying.

THE POTHOLE

EPISODE 142

PREMIERED: 02/20/97 **WRITERS:** O'Donnell, Dan O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** After Jerry accidentally knocks his girlfriend Jenna's toothbrush into the toilet, he can't bear to kiss her because "she has the taint." Elaine tells him, "Jerry, you have tendencies, but now I'm afraid we're talking disorder." She should talk. When a Chinese restaurant won't deliver a coveted flounder dish to her side of the street ("Food only for those who live in boundary!"), she pretends to live in a janitor's closet in a building across the street. Kramer's on the road, too: He adopts a section of highway and is soon washing traffic signs in Jerry's kitchen sink. Everything blows sky-high when George, obsessed with retrieving his keys from a paved-over pothole, jackhammers through underground pipes, dousing Jerry's girlfriend with, uh,

toilet water. **GUEST STARS:** Kristin Davis (Jenna), Knight (Newman) **HE HAD IT COMING:** In a highway explosion, Newman gets his goose cooked—or in this case the flounder he's delivering—while moonlighting for the Chinese restaurant. **CIVIC LESSONS:** Kramer adopts a highway because "parenting isn't about delegating, it's about being there." **RATING: ★★½** Classic *Seinfeld* in its meshing of the quartet's obsessions and cracks in the Big Apple. Extra credit: the ambitious tech touches like the toilet's-eye camera shot and the highway fireball.

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

EPISODE 143

PREMIERED: 03/13/97 **WRITER:** Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine derides the must-see film "The English Patient" ("Sex in a tub? That doesn't work!") and pays the price for fighting a fad: Friends drop her; her boyfriend, Blaine, dumps her; and Peterman packs her off to Tunisia for some inspirational penance. Jerry's doing time of a different sort in Florida, helping his parents move into their condo. He gets sucked into macho one-upmanship games with ancient Izzy Mandelbaum. Meanwhile, George meets sexy blonde Danielle and becomes obsessed with besting her boyfriend, Neil, his supposed twin. **GUEST STARS:** Lloyd Bridges (Izzy), Todd Jeffries (Blaine), Martin (Morty), Jeff Miller (Neil), Chelsea Noble (Danielle), Sheridan (Helen) **ROLLED GOLD:** Kramer imports Cuban immigrants to make cigars. **RATING: ★½** An American patient in dire need of a rescue operation.

wizardry, Jerry gets his old kitchen back, George finds a new place to snooze (one level above Jerry's cereal collection), and assorted parties wind up in the East River. **GUEST STARS:** Vince Grant (Hal), Stephen Lee (Conrad) **BACK STORY:** Elaine's new boyfriend, Hal, is a chiropractor's dream who shops for furniture at the Lumbar Yard. **GOOD HOSTESS:** We learn that Elaine loves Twinkies whether they are "cooked" or raw. **SEIN POSTS:** Watch for a temporary Martha Stewart transformation of Jerry's kitchen. **RATING: ★★** A little Steinbrenner doesn't go a long way, although Elaine's claiming to be a veteran clammer ("Yeah, and I scallop") is a pearl.

offends me as a comedian." More conflict arises as Kramer and mini-Mickey come to blows while double-dating two babes they picked up at the Gap. When Mickey weds one of the babes, Jill St. John and Robert Wagner show up as the little guy's way-handsome parents. **GUEST STARS:** Bryan Cranston (Dr. Tim), Suzanne Cryer (Marcy), Robert Wagner and Jill St. John (Mickey's parents), Danny Woodburn (Mickey), Henry Wornicz (Father Curtis) **SEIN POSTS:** This episode contains one of the few references to Jerry's being Jewish. **ALL THE NEWS THAT...HELLO?** Jerry gets a call asking if he's interested in a subscription to the *New York Times*. "Yes," he says and hangs up. **RATINGS: ★★½** One of the wittiest, sharpest, funniest...yada, yada, yada.



Danny Woodburn made his first appearance as the wee actor Mickey, Kramer's pal, in episode 77 on Feb. 24, 1994.

THE NAP

EPISODE 144

PREMIERED: 04/10/97 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Everyone needs a little R&R. Nap-crazed George schemes to find an office snoozing spot. "Sometimes a nap is the only thing that gets me out of bed in the morning," he moans to Jerry, who's seeking peace during a kitchen redo. With help from Jerry's superpassive carpenter, Conrad ("or Connie, if you prefer"), George gets a doghouse-size bedroom under his desk, complete with alarm clock. But 40 winks drop to none when Steinbrenner mistakes the clock for a terrorist bomb. Kramer is alarmed by "pool problems" created by geriatric aquacizers at his usual swimming hole, so he takes to the East River. Despite Conrad's woodworking

THE YADA YADA

EPISODE 145

PREMIERED: 04/24/97 **WRITERS:** Mehlman, Jill Franklyn **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** The all-purpose phrase "yada, yada, yada" is catching on, thanks to George's "succinct" but kleptomaniac girlfriend, Marcy. Dating a "yada, yada" gal "is good," Jerry tells a skeptical George: It's "like dating *USA Today*." What's not good, Jerry thinks, is his dentist's conversion to Judaism; Jerry suspects he did it "for the jokes." Although his outrage leads to Kramer's accusations that he's an "anti-dentite," Jerry visits a confessional (where he promptly sits on the kneeler) to squeal on Dr. Tim. "And this offends you as a Jew?" asks Father Curtis. "No, it

THE MILLENNIUM

EPISODE 146

PREMIERED: 05/01/97 **WRITER:** Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** It's back to the future as Kramer preps for his Millennium New Year's Eve party 18 months early. Jerry speed-dials into his romance with girlfriend Valerie, and George tries to get ahead while falling behind. Faced with a job offer from the New York Mets ("We're not 'talking' here, we're just talking," explains one thuggish, Mamet-worthy exec), George tries to get fired by the Yankees. But his screw-me schemes (donning Babe Ruth's memorialized pinstripes, streaking Yankee Stadium in a flesh-colored bodysuit) only endear him more to Steinbrenner. "I'm failing at

failing," he moans to Jerry. Elaine also shoots herself in the foot when she tries to drive the snobby Putumayo clothing store out of business by unleashing Kramer with a loaded pricing gun. **GUEST STAR:** Lauren Graham (Valerie) **RATING:** ★★ ★ Never mind what he says: George is great at failing.

THE MUFFIN TOPS

EPISODE 147

PREMIERED: 05/08/97 **WRITER:** Feresten

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Lots of cutting and paring going on here. George worries about excess ear hair, Jerry shaves his chest (and discovers it's a turn-on to hairless freak gal pal Alex) and Elaine comes up with a scheme to shear muffins and sell only the tops, "where the muffin breaks free of the pan." When she gets stuck with the muffin stumps (even the homeless shelter won't take them), she turns to Kramer, who tries taking them to garbage dumps while running his Peterman Reality Tour bus, which has been sparked by the bestselling Peterman bio based on anecdotes from Kramer's life. Meanwhile, George happily plays the Out-of-Towner after being mistaken for a tourist by Mary Anne, a dishy New York Visitor Center employee. Finally, Elaine turns to the Cleaner (Newman) to dispose of the muffettes. **GUEST STARS:** Melinda Clarke (Alex), Knight (Newman), Rena Sofer (Mary Anne) **AND YOU ARE?** Rebecca DeMornay, the name of the overweight angry African-American woman who works at the homeless shelter. **THE PLOT SICKENS:** Peterman's bio title: *Without a Placket*. **SEIN POSTS:** The Peterman Reality Tour is a spoof of a *Seinfeld* reality tour in New York operated by the real-life (Kenny) Kramer. **RATING:** ★★ ★ ★ "The Muffin Tops" takes the cake.

THE SUMMER OF GEORGE

EPISODE 148

PREMIERED: 05/15/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, Schaffer

DIRECTOR: Ackerman **STORY:** Girl trouble ruins what George, who has been dumped by the Yankees with a cushy three-month severance deal, envisioned as "his" summer. In fact, estrogen-spiked snafus are screwing up everyone. Jerry's new girlfriend, Lanette, is so demanding, he recruits George as his summer relationship intern to help share the load. Elaine is accused of being catty when dorky, walking-impaired female co-worker Sam hits town. And Kramer, the miscast recipient of a Tony for the musical "Scarsdale Surprise," has to fire the "train wreck" of a star, Raquel

KRAMER'S HAIR-BRAINED IDEAS

The coffee-table book about coffee tables...the "Bro" bra for men...beach-scented Beach cologne—yada, yada, yada. Like we haven't all heard about Kramer's greatest hits. But the K-man's an idea factory, churning out schemes and scams and kooky concepts faster than you can say, "Giddy-up!" In fact, there's such a fertile mind lurking under that "Eraserhead"—via—Don King hairdo, we'll bet you can't spot the five fakes sprinkled throughout this compendium of brilliant idiocy that we brought back from a trip to the Cosmo cosmos.

- 
1. Opening a chain of make-your-own pizza restaurants (episode 4)
 2. Operating the Peterman Reality Tour, based on J. Peterman's bestselling "biography" based on anecdotes from Kramer's life (147)
 3. Taking up kayaking in the East River, only to run afoul of an Asian immigrant-smuggling operation (101)
 4. Using butter as an aftershave moisturizer, then accidentally frying himself while sunbathing on the roof, thereby acquiring a special Newman-tormenting scent (149)
 5. Suing Java World for millions after suffering cafe-latte burns (106)
 6. Selling George's interoffice envelope bearing the signatures of New York Yankees star Don Mattingly and manager Buck Showalter (108)
 7. Rejoining the Boy Scouts to get the bird-watching merit badge he failed to earn as a youngster (85)
 8. Instructing firemen on using shortcuts to reach fires faster (the radio scanner bought at Leapin' Larry's appliance store tells him there's a crying need for his help) (111)
 9. Training Little Jerry Seinfeld, his own cockfighting champion (137)
 10. Putting Kramerica Industries to work developing a rubber bladder for oil tankers to prevent oil spills (150)
 11. Adopting a highway and cleaning it himself, even washing the traffic signs in Jerry's kitchen sink (142)
 12. Making gravel in a blender (154)
 13. Working from Jerry's apartment as a dispatcher for an escort service (12)
 14. Cashing in on recycling by traveling to Michigan with Newman in a postal truck full of soda bottles, because the bottle-return rate is a nickel higher there (124)
 15. Insisting he deserves the \$100 prize because a bank's everybody-gets-a-hello policy was violated when he got a "Hey" instead (126)
 16. Running a dinner for 183 Jewish singles and cooking delicacies like kreplach and tzimmes with Frank Costanza (132)
 17. Slicing his own meat, extra thin, with his own meat slicer (156)
 18. Hoarding his own blood in Newman's meat freezer to avoid the the blood bank's service charge (152)
 19. Racing up down escalators, despite the crowds, to get into shape for the New York City Marathon (43)
 20. Saving time by doing everyday errands in the shower, including preparing radish roses for a dinner party (157)
 21. Making sausages with Newman in Jerry's apartment (152)
 22. Suing the tobacco companies for ruining his face after he ran a smoking lounge in his apartment for three days (135)
 23. Installing a hot tub, with its 16,000-BTU heat pump, in his living room (109)
 24. Reading books to the blind, then quitting because he nearly goes out of his mind reading to a gorgeous redhead client who likes to hear erotica (22)
 25. Chaperoning Miss Rhode Island on her date with Jerry—as called for by Miss America's pageant rules—and then becoming her personal consultant (83)

FAKES: 3, 7, 13, 19, 24

Welch. Things get ugly when Sam turns into a stalker, Raquel loses her wrath on Kramer and hapless Elaine, and George literally misses a step in keeping up with Lanette and injures himself. Instead of spending his summer "reading a book from start to finish and in that order,"

George learns to walk again in physical therapy, right alongside scary Sam. **GUEST STARS:** Amanda Peet (Lanette), Molly Shannon (Sam), Raquel Welch (as herself). **RATING:** ★★ ★ The season ends on a high note, showing there's still something left in the show about nothing.

9

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In a 1993 *Playboy* interview, flush with high ratings and critical success, Jerry Seinfeld prophetically announced, "I can guarantee you we won't do 10 [years]. I don't want to be in people's faces. This show is going to be off way sooner than anyone would believe."

Well, he almost made it to 10, but Seinfeld's decision to call it quits while on top came sooner than almost anyone wanted to believe. Especially NBC, which reportedly offered Seinfeld \$5 million an episode to keep its signature comedy.

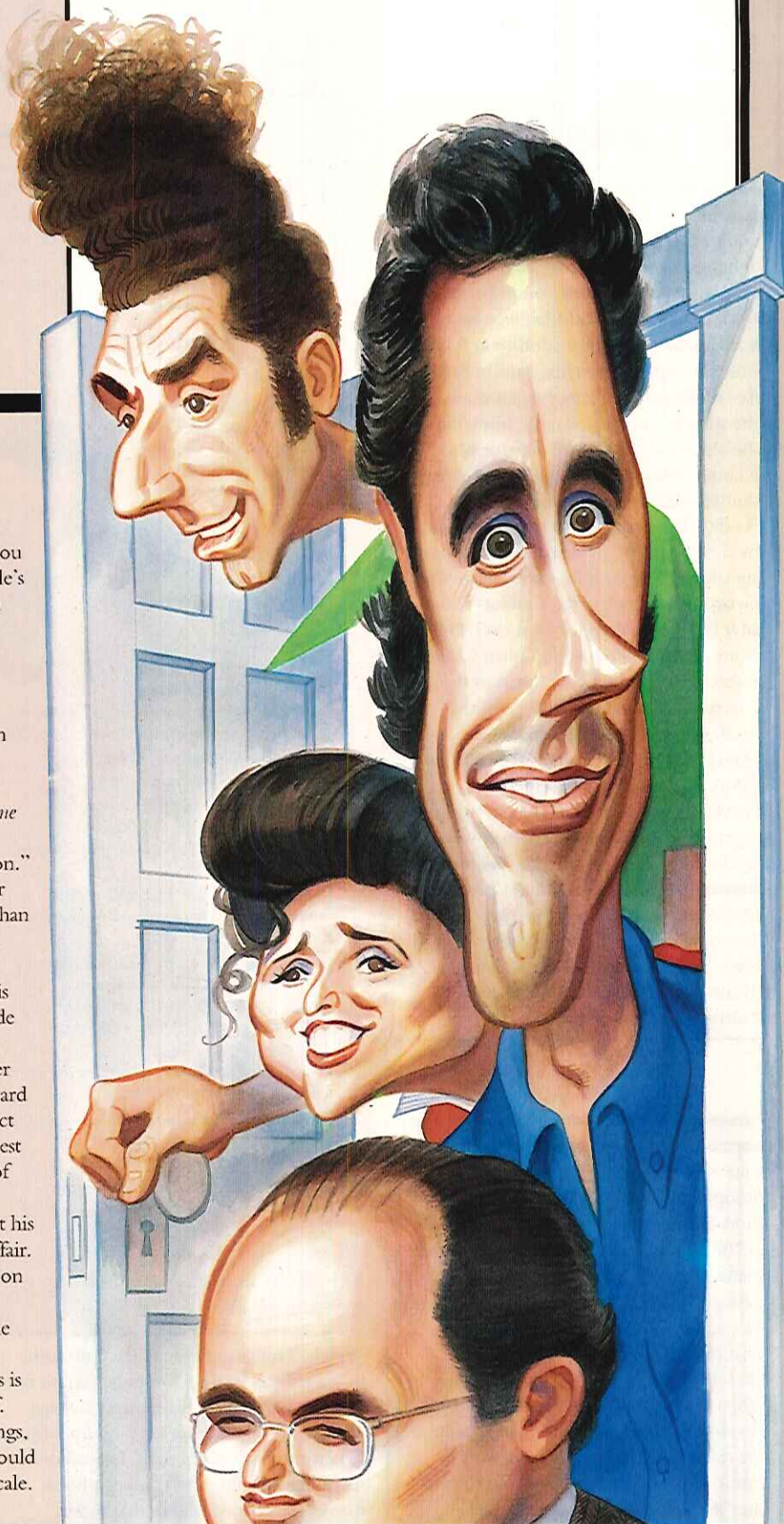
The pleading was to no avail. After May: Nada, nada, nada. "If I get off now," he explained in a *Time* cover story about his decision (talk about being in people's faces), "I have a chance at a standing ovation."

He has a point. If he'd decided to stick around for another year, the press would doubtless be less kind than they have been during the hype of these final weeks. Just a month before his decision, Seinfeld was again answering criticism about this season's quality after his costars' rancorous negotiations for heftier salaries made headlines: \$600,000 a week during this last hurrah.

In truth, the *Seinfeld* touch was revealing an ever heavier hand. Even doing an entire episode backward as a kinky experiment in form couldn't erase the fact that its content was less than knee-slapping. The closest thing to a genuine gem: Kramer's transformation of his apartment into the old *Merv Griffin Show* set.

In the *Playboy* interview, Seinfeld predicted that his TV celebrity would go the way of a soured love affair. "So you might as well experience the peak of passion with whatever relationship we're talking about, whether it's with a person or, in this case...with the public. It's going to end badly. Everything ends."

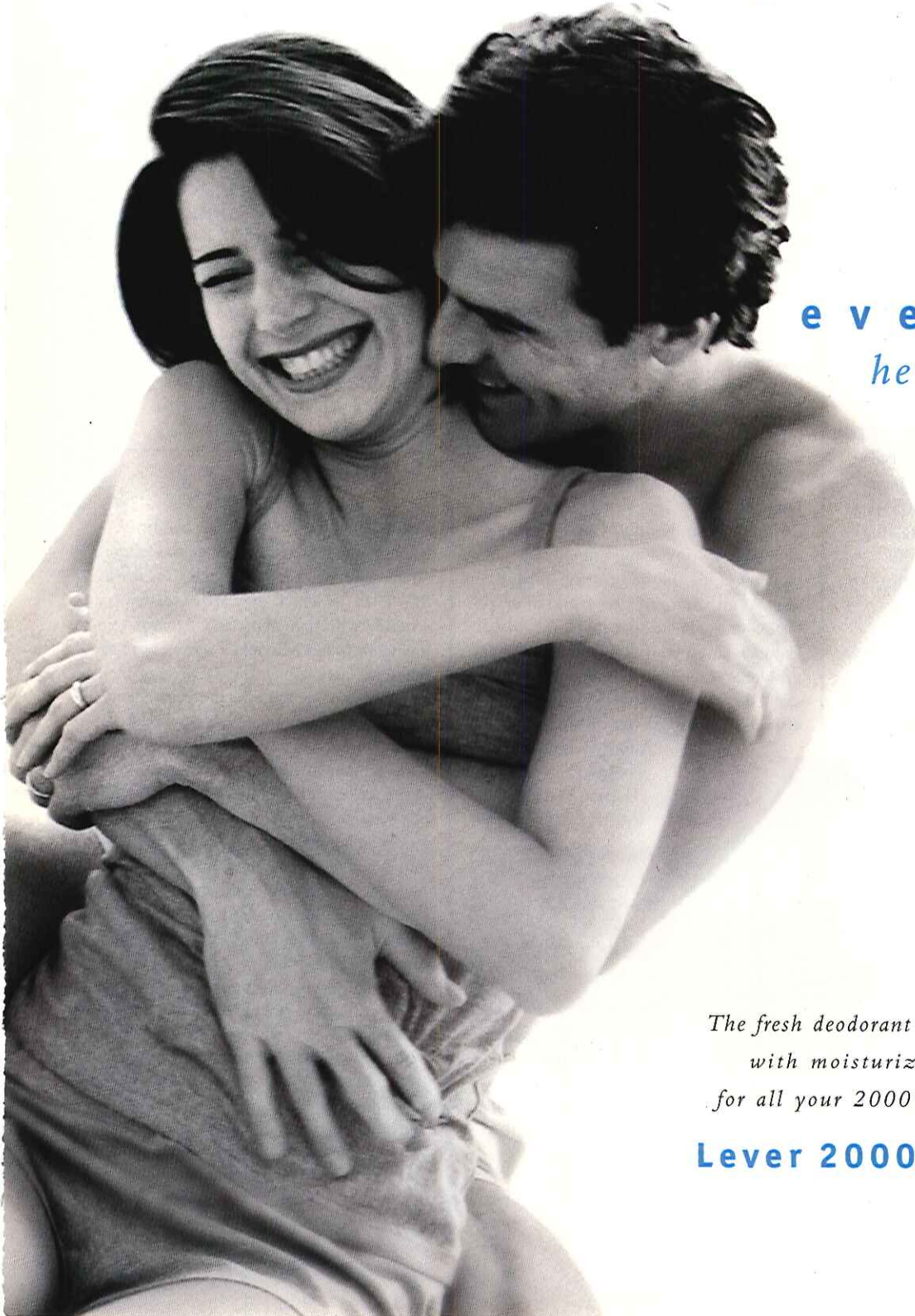
So it ends, but hardly as badly as he feared. This is no *Roseanne*, limping off as a shell of its former self. *Seinfeld* goes out on a high: high ad rates, high ratings, high expectations, setting a high bar for all who would ever attempt to achieve nothing on such a grand scale.



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THE BUTTER SHAVE

EPISODE 149

PREMIERED: 09/25/97 **WRITERS:** Alec Berg, David Mandel, Jeff Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Andy Ackerman **STORY:** George sports a cane for his interview at Play Now sporting goods, so his boss to be assumes he's "differently abled." Kramer starts using butter as an aftershave—"Oh, Moses, smell the roses," Jerry says—then accidentally "cooks" himself on the roof. His delectable smell torments Newman. Jerry "takes a dive" (does a dud show) to expose parasitic comic Bania. **GUEST STARS:** Stephen Hytner (Bania), Gordon Jump (George's boss, Mr. Thomassoulo), Wayne Knight (Newman), Patrick Warburton (Puddy) **SILLY PUDDY:** Elaine reunites with the mechanic. "She's battled around, and she's back at the top of the order," explains Jerry. **RATING: ★★** A smorgasbord of tasty stories and deliciously bizarre sight gags is a hearty appetizer to the final season.

THE VOICE

EPISODE 150

PREMIERED: 10/02/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, Mandel, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** You can never be too rich or too annoying. To wit: George pledges to stay at Play Now, although he's universally loathed. Jerry develops a silly voice—"Helloooo!"—as a response to girlfriend Claire's "talking" belly button. Kramer hires an NYU intern, Darin, to work for KramERICA, testing an "oil tanker bladder system." But the system runs afoul of Claire, whose subsequent lawsuit puts Play Now out of business. **GUEST STARS:** Jarrad Paul (Darin), Sara Rose Peterson (Claire), Warburton (Puddy) **BEAUTIFUL SCHEMER:** The K-man suggests putting "ketchup and mustard in the same bottle." **RATING: ★★** On the strength of the "voice." Whether you love it or leave it, it's already a classic.

THE SERENITY NOW

EPISODE 151

PREMIERED: 10/09/97 **WRITER:** Steve Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Repressed emotions run rampant in this episode, which features Frank Costanza screaming "Serenity now!" (from his relaxation tapes) whenever he's riled. He enlists George and the still insane Lloyd Braun to sell computers out of the garage. Kramer installs the Costanzas' old screen door to simulate

"the cool evening breezes of Anytown, USA." When Jerry's girlfriend, Patty, tries to tap into his emotions, he lets loose and dumps her, then proposes to Elaine. She finally says, "All right, Jerome, I'm in," but a "scared straight" Jerry replies, "I tell you, I don't see it happening." **GUEST STARS:** Richard Fancy (Lippman), Estelle Harris (Estelle), Lori Loughlin (Patty), Bruce Mahler (Rabbi Glickman), Ross Malinger (Adam), Matt McCoy (Lloyd Braun), Jerry Stiller (Frank) **LOVE POTION NO. 19:** Elaine's "shiksappeal" causes Jewish men to hit on her. **PERFECT PITCH:** George's sales spiel: "You can check porn and stock quotes." **RATING: ★★** This admittedly uneven episode is a breakthrough: Watching Jerry explore his feelings is a rush. And Frank gives folks everywhere a mantra.

THE BLOOD

EPISODE 152

PREMIERED: 10/16/97 **WRITER:** Dan O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry's parents hire geriatric Izzy Mandelbaum to help Jerry remedy that "spare tire." Kramer begins hoarding his blood, first at a blood bank, then in Newman's meat freezer. After nicking his jugular with an Exacto, Jerry learns "you got three pints of Kramer in you, buddy!" Soon Kramer's asking favors (involving homemade sausage) of his "blood brother." Elaine visits suburban mom Vivian and offers to "baby-sit the hell out of that kid," which leads Vivian to confide that she has health problems and needs someone on deck in case "the worst happens." Oops. **GUEST STARS:** Lloyd Bridges (Izzy Mandelbaum), Audrey Kissel (Tara), Knight (Newman), Barney Martin (Morty), Liz Sheridan

Save George from "The Heart Attack" (13)? Or bicker over Chuckles? Now that's a dilemma.

(Helen), Kellie Waymire (Vivian) **TOUGH LOVE:** Izzy calls Jerry "doughboy," "daffodil" and "butter bean."

EVEN TOUGHER LOVE: George shoots for the "trifecta"—sex, food and TV, all at once—with girlfriend Tara. **RATING: ★★** Elaine's and Kramer's storylines are anemic.

THE JUNK MAIL

EPISODE 153

PREMIERED: 10/30/97 **WRITER:** Spike Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** When Jerry's old camp buddy "Fragile" Frankie Merman gets him a van instead of the Saab he promised, Jerry's afraid to say he hates it: Every time Frankie gets upset, he runs into the woods. Kramer, angered by the Pottery Barn catalogs clogging his mailbox, acquires the van for an "antimail campaign," which is cut short after an intimidating visit from the postmaster general. The action ends in the woods, where Jerry has come to find a distraught Frankie, and George has gone to make out with his cousin Rhisa—and where the Costanzas end up rocking the van. **GUEST STARS:** Wilfred Brimley (Postmaster General), Dana Gould (Frankie), Harris (Estelle), Toby Huss (Jack), Knight (Newman), Stiller (Frank), Laurie Taylor-Williams (Rhisa), Warburton (Puddy) **FROM BAD TO WORSE:** Elaine's temp Puddy replacement, Jack, is the posturing pitchman for a Nobody Beats the Wiz commercial. **RATING: ★** The only part of "The Junk Mail" that delivers is the over-the-top strutting of the Wiz.

THE MERV GRIFFIN SHOW

EPISODE 154

PREMIERED: 11/06/97 **WRITER:** Bruce Eric Kaplan **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George enters a war with pigeons after they break the "deal" in which they are to scatter whenever humans approach. Animal-loving girlfriend Miranda is upset, more so when he hits a squirrel while driving. Improbably, George pays the vet bill and takes the animal home. Meanwhile, Jerry's latest conquest, Celia, is well-endowed—with her dad's vintage toy collection. She won't let Jerry touch, though, so he drugs her. Kramer, who has started interviewing guests on an old *Merv Griffin Show* set he found, invites *Wild Kingdom*'s Jim Fowler to come by. Closing number? Fowler's hawk meets George's squirrel. **GUEST STARS:** Arabella Field (Miranda), Jim Fowler (as himself), Brent Hinkley (Lou), Knight (Newman), John O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Julia Pennington (Celia) **CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?** Elaine's co-worker Lou Filerman "sidles up" to her in Peterman's presence and takes credit for her work. **THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING:** We find out George's parents were still changing his diapers when he was 7½. **RATING: ★★** Jerry drugging his girlfriend is more snoozer than shocker, but the site of Kramer "interviewing" the gang had us in stitches.

FASCINATING RHYTHM

COMPOSER JONATHAN WOLFF GETS TOES TAPPING WITH HIS FINGER-SNAPPING THEME SONG

If *Seinfeld* is the antisitcom, then the score that accompanies it is the antitheme song. In 1989, Jerry Seinfeld was struggling to find the perfect musical counterpart to the monologues that originally opened his show. In stepped Jonathan Wolff, the composer behind such long-running shows as *Who's the Boss?* and *Married... With Children*, who realized that the show about nothing called for something different. He ended up creating the lip-popping, finger-snapping, bass-driven syncopation that would become the show's musical mantra, as evocative of *Seinfeld* as Kramer's klutzy entrances.

After *Seinfeld* and Wolff met through a mutual friend, comedian George Wallace, the 39-year-old musician soon determined that the key was to build a montage of sounds to accompany Seinfeld's comedic style rather than the traditional "catchy, identifiable theme song," he says. Wolff orchestrated sounds to complement Seinfeld's voice inflections and the rhythm of his speech in the opening monologue, which changed every episode, necessitating Wolff's weekly input. "He has a unique, quirky, rhythmic delivery to his comedy. So instead of using drums and percussion, I used lips, snapping fingers and tongue noises [recorded on a synthesizer] that blended

well with his human voice delivering a monologue."

While the music may have blended well with Jerry, it initially grated on some ears at NBC. "Because this music at the time was very odd, there were executives who thought this was too weird for television. They would say, 'We're doing a TV show. Let's have TV music.'" Fortunately, the battle was won, and over the years the sound got even weirder (and transcended the dropping of the monologue). "It became wackier, goofier and stranger," Wolff says. "The melodies would be less singable, and I put surprises in them with bass transitions that sometimes drew attention to themselves."

Wolff says he wasn't surprised when *Seinfeld* decided to call it quits. "There were people who grumbled, 'Do it for the crew. We still need the money,'" the composer says. "He owes us nothing. I'm just really, really grateful that the show lasted as long as it did."

And although Wolff supplies the music on eight to 10 series a year, he knows the *Seinfeld* theme will be the one that people mimic long into the future. "Old-timers in the industry seem to dwell on the good old days. I'm guessing the nine seasons of *Seinfeld* will be mine when I'm an old coot."



THE SLICER

EPISODE 155

PREMIERED: 11/13/97 **WRITERS:** Darin Henry Gregg Kavet, Andy Robin **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George's new job at Kruger Industrial Smoothing is in jeopardy after he sees himself in a Kruger family photo. It's from 1989 at the beach, where George chucked the Krugers' boom box into the ocean after speculating (rightly, it turns out) that they had stolen his clothes. His airbrushing solution fails, however, when Kruger is removed instead. To get a new picture of a shirtless Kruger, George plans a skin-cancer screening at the office, to be conducted by Jerry's doctor girlfriend, Sara. But Jerry alienates her with his comments about aloe, so Kramer—already at Kruger getting a kink in his new meat slicer "smoothed"—steps in. **GUEST STARS:** Marcia Cross (Sara), Daniel Von Bargen (Kruger) **DREAM DATE:** Elaine has a nightmare that she's in bed with Jerry, George and Kramer. **RATING:** ★ This strained slice of weirdness just doesn't cut it.

THE BETRAYAL

EPISODE 156

PREMIERED: 11/20/97 **WRITERS:** Mandel, Peter Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** In the "backward episode" (the scenes air from last to first), Elaine is invited to Sue Ellen Mischke's wedding in India a week beforehand and spitefully brings the gang. Kramer stays home to fix a problem: Friend FDR (Franklin Delano Romanowski) made a wish that Kramer drop dead, so George's girlfriend, Nina, uses his ticket. An "awkward pause" leads to Jerry and Nina sleeping together, and a peach schnapps-affected Elaine spills to George. It also gets out that Elaine once slept with Sue Ellen's fiancé, Pinter. In the end we learn that Nina just wanted a free trip. **GUEST STARS:** Knight (Newman), Michael McShane (FDR), Justine Miceli (Nina), Brenda Strong (Sue Ellen), Heidi Swedberg (Susan), Shaun Toub (Pinter) **FLASH BACK:** As the story winds back, Susan tells George to "put your sorries in a sack," Kramer throws a snowball at FDR, and Jerry meets Kramer: "We're

neighbors. What's mine is yours." **RATING:** ★★★ .episode this elevate to enough strong are flashbacks final the but, comedy than curiosity More

THE APOLOGY

EPISODE 157

PREMIERED: 12/11/97 **WRITER:** Jennifer Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** All the world's a stage—of recovery. In step 9 of his AA program, Jason "Stankey" Hanke, who once commented on the size of George's neck at a party, must apologize to everyone he has wronged. A dissatisfied George confronts Hanke's sponsor, who sends him to "Rageaholics Anonymous." Elaine is plagued by Peggy, a co-worker who is phobic of Elaine's germs, so "recovering germaphobe" Puddy steps in. Unfortunately, everyone takes a step backward after a dinner prepared by Kramer, who has taken to doing *everything* in the shower. **GUEST STARS:** Megan Cole (Peggy), Kathleen McClellan (Melissa), James Spader (Hanke), Warburton (Puddy) **TOO MUCH OF A NUDE THING:** Jerry is troubled that girlfriend

"IN REAL LIFE I'M MORE WITH-IT. THEY MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THEY WANT ME TO LOOK, BUT I'M REALLY SO MUCH YOUNGER AND PRETTIER."

—Estelle Harris (Estelle Costanza)

Melissa walks around his apartment in the buff. "Naked hair-brushing, good; naked crouching, bad." **RATING:** ★ This episode continues the recent trend of trying overly hard to tie loose ends together.

THE STRIKE

E P I S O D E 1 5 8

PREMIERED: 12/18/97 **WRITERS:** Berg, O'Keefe, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** At a party at Tim Whatley's, Elaine gives a geek her standard fake phone number, which spells NO ELAINE. Realizing she inadvertently gave away a card she needs, she then tracks down the guys who answer that number. George hands out gift cards with donations to the bogus Human Fund. When Kruger finds out, George says it's because he celebrates Festivus ("for the rest of us"), not Christmas. The episode ends at the Costanzas' home with a celebration of Frank's made-up holiday. **GUEST STARS:** Bryan Cranston (Tim Whatley), Karen Fineman (Gwen), Harris (Estelle), Kevin McDonald (Denim Vest), Stiller (Frank), Von Bargaen (Kruger) **TWIN PEAKS:** Jerry dates Gwen, a woman reminiscent of the *Batman* villain Two-Face, who looks good half the time and bad half the time. **RATING:** ★★ The episode itself is two-faced. Good side: Festivus, the Human Fund, Gwen. Bad side: Kramer's H&H Bagels exploits (he returns to work after a 12-year strike) and Elaine's card quest.

THE DEALERSHIP

E P I S O D E 1 5 9

PREMIERED: 01/08/98 **WRITER:** Koren **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Puddy, who has "graduated" to salesman, promises Jerry "an insider deal" on a new car. (Downside: He keeps forcing Jerry to high-five him.) George tags along and looks for the free doughnuts (which he keeps missing) and a Twix bar from the vending machine (which is stolen by mechanic Don). Just as Jerry is closing in on a black Saab 900, Elaine dumps Puddy, thus ruining the deal. Jerry negotiates to

get the romance back on track, but then, when he won't high-five the salesman, gets stuck with a yellow Caprice Classic anyway. **GUEST STARS:** Joel McCrary (Don), Warburton (Puddy) **LE LOSER:** We find out George's dad once owned a Le Car, causing the kids at school to taunt, "Let's stuff Le George in Le Locker." **RATING:** ★★ For a Puddy power injection and a George we can believe in (hungry and paranoid).



Newman and Kramer tout ricksha riding to a skeptical Jerry in episode 165.

THE REVERSE PEEPHOLE

E P I S O D E 1 6 0

PREMIERED: 01/15/98 **WRITER:** Feresten **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Gender-bending garb dresses up this story. Puddy wears a "manfur" as his winter coat, to which Elaine objects on grounds of taste. When she's put "in charge of" the coats at Joe Mayo's apartment warming, she tosses the fur, which turns out to be the host's look-alike. Newman—who, incidentally, is joining Kramer in installing reverse peepholes—retrieves the coat and offers it to building super Silvio's wife. Jerry, who is on "a pocket diet," kicks the wallet habit, so Elaine hooks him up with a European carry-all that is actually a manpurse. Kramer, protecting Newman, tells Silvio the coat belongs to Jerry, who then has to wear the furry number on the street—while carrying his manpurse. **GUEST STARS:** Pat Finn (Joe Mayo), Knight (Newman), Jon Polito

(Silvio), Warburton (Puddy) **WHY WHITE MEN CAN'T DANCE:** Jerry co-opts the phrase "gettin' jiggy wit' it" to describe his DJ-ing expertise at Mayo's last party. **RATING:** ★★ Handsome and stylish, but it doesn't quite reach classic status.

THE CARTOON

E P I S O D E 1 6 1

PREMIERED: 01/29/98 **WRITER:** Kaplan **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry tells Kramer that wannabe comic Sally Weaver is so awful she should "just give it up," and Kramer repeats the smear. Sally's revenge: a hit one-woman show called "Jerry Seinfeld Is the Devil." (Newman goes six times. "It's so great to see a show that's about something.") Jerry becomes more and more enraged as Sally expands her routine, but he does get some form of flattery when George meets Jerry look-alike Janet at a party and, smitten, tells her she's the prettiest girl there. Kramer delivers the verdict that George is "all mixed up in a bizarre sexual amalgam of some girl and his best friend," which, naturally, winds up in Sally's act. **GUEST STARS:** Kathy Griffin (Sally Weaver), Knight (Newman), Tracy Nelson (Janet) **THAT'S NOT FUNNY:** Elaine's *New Yorker* cartoon is spotted to be a Ziggy rip-off. **RATING:** ★★ It feels right that George should find love with a "lady Jerry," and Sally is a perfect nemesis. But what's with Kramer's sudden loose lips?

THE STRONG BOX

E P I S O D E 1 6 2

PREMIERED: 02/05/98 **WRITER:** O'Keefe, Billy Kimball **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine's new guy, Glenn, is so nonforthcoming that she thinks he's married; Jerry thinks he's the Green Lantern. When she finds out he's actually just poor, Elaine decides to "pay him off," then discovers he's poor and married. George can't ditch Maura, so he arranges for her to see him with Loretta, a secretary at work, but both women want to work through the problem. Kramer struggles to hide the key to a strongbox for his "irreplaceables"

("Some taxidermy, my Tony, my military discharge"), a mission that ultimately leads to the death of a parrot. **GUEST STARS:** Ileana Douglas (Loretta), Alex Kapp (Maura), Nicholas Paul Walker (Glenn) **BREAK POINTS:** George, on Maura: "Sometimes, at restaurants, she talks to her food: 'Oh, Mr. Mashed Potatoes, you are so good!'" **RATING: ★★** It's much ado about nothing—in a bad way.

THE WIZARD

EPISODE 163

PREMIERED: 02/26/98 **WRITER:** Steve Lookner **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Kramer "retires" to the Seinfelds' Florida condo, where Jerry's visiting for his dad's birthday. (He gives Morty a \$200 Wizard electronic organizer, saying he bought it on the street for \$50.) Kramer runs for condo president but loses, partly because the Wizard "tip calculators" he gives out are faulty (they're cut-rate Willards). George gets out of a social event with the Rosses by saying he'll be signing a lease on a

Hamptons house; they play along, and when he finds out they're on to him, he invites them out. Jerry thinks Elaine's new guy, Darryl, might be black, but she can't ask: "Then it's like I really want to know." **GUEST STARS:** Samuel Bliss Cooper (Darryl), Warren Frost (Mr. Ross), Martin (Morty), Sheridan (Helen), Grace Zabriskie (Mrs. Ross) **BUYING DECISION:** "I've been lying about my income for a few years; I figured I could afford a fake house in the Hamptons," George says. **RATING: ★★** We love George's lies, but Darryl can't hold a candle to Puddy.

THE BURNING

EPISODE 164

PREMIERED: 03/19/98 **WRITER:** Crittenden **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine discovers Puddy is religious (the presets on his car radio are all Christian stations) and is upset he's not trying to save her from Hell. George, "good for one comment" during

meetings, takes a lesson about showmanship from Jerry: "When you hit that high note, say good night and walk off." Now popular with boss Kruger, George is saddled with a huge project. Kramer and Mickey get a gig acting out diseases at Mt. Sinai Hospital for medical students to practice diagnosing, but Kramer is so good at gonorrhea that he's "typecast," forcing him to "steal" Mickey's ailment (cirrhosis of the liver with jaundice). Jerry gives girlfriend Sophie the "It's me" when she answers the phone; mistaking him for a friend, she admits she hasn't yet told Jerry "The Tractor Story." **GUEST STARS:** Cindy Ambuehl (Sophie), Von Borgen (Kruger), Warburton (Puddy), Danny Woodburn (Mickey) **THIS SINKS:** George's take on "Titanic": "So that old woman, she's just a liar, right?" **LOOKING FOR LOVE:** Elaine prefers a "dumb and lazy" man to a religious one because "dumb and lazy I understand." **RATING: ★★☆☆** They're hitting the high note and keeping us wanting more.

AND SO IT GOES....

As of press time, the five final *Seinfeld* episodes and a clip-show retrospective had not yet aired. Information on these episodes was culled solely from NBC.

THE BOOKSTORE

EPISODE 165

PREMIERES: 04/09/98 **WRITERS:** Feresten, Darin Henry, Mark Jaffe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** George decides that bookstores are a good place to meet women but ends up having to buy an expensive coffee-table tome he takes into the bathroom. Jerry's efforts to teach Uncle Leo a lesson (he thinks it's his right as a retired person to steal books) get the old man arrested. After embarrassing herself at last year's J. Peterman party with her distinctive dancing moves, Elaine is caught making out with a co-worker, Zach. Kramer and Newman open a ricksha business, but one of the homeless people they've hired runs off with the ricksha. **GUEST STARS:** Lesser (Uncle Leo), Knight (Newman), O'Hurley (J. Peterman), Jonathan Pennter (Zach)

THE FROGGER

EPISODE 166

PREMIERES: 04/23/98 **WRITERS:** Kavet, Koren, Robin, O'Keefe **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Elaine, fed up that Peterman celebrates

everything, decides to boycott all company parties. When she gets the munchies, she mistakenly eats Peterman's \$29,000 cake that came from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. George buys an arcade game from his high school pizza parlor, and Kramer helps him move it, which they have to do without unplugging the machine because it'll wipe out George's top score. Jerry's latest, Lisi, keeps finishing his sentences. **GUEST STARS:** Julia Campbell (Lisi), O'Hurley (J. Peterman)

THE MAID

EPISODE 167

PREMIERES: 04/30/98 **WRITERS:** Berg, Mandel, Schaffer, Kit Boss, Mehlman **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Jerry hires a maid, who forgets all about her cleaning duties when they start sleeping together. Soon, Jerry worries about the implications of paying her when she's not doing the job. When Kramer's girlfriend moves downtown, he acts like she's on the other side of the world. People are hesitant to call Elaine when she is forced to change her phone number and gets the dreaded 646 area code. George decides he hates his name

and comes up with alternatives, including T-Bone, which is quickly usurped by a co-worker. **GUEST STARS:** Angela Featherstone (Cindy the maid)

THE PUERTO RICAN DAY

EPISODE 168

PREMIERES: 05/07/98 **WRITERS:** Berg, Crittenden, Feresten, Kaplan, Kavet, Koren, Mandel, O'Keefe, Robin, Schaffer **DIRECTOR:** Ackerman **STORY:** Stuck in a traffic jam caused by the Puerto Rican Day parade, Kramer advises Jerry on how to get out of the mess. George takes advantage of the delay by taking in a movie, but he is thwarted in his attempts to make the audience laugh with his one funny line by a viewer who is brandishing a laser. Fed up with waiting, Elaine gets into a cab that is also moving at a snail's pace. She bets the driver she can go faster on her own and ends up running alongside the taxi.

CLIP SHOW AND SERIES FINALE

EPISODES 169 & 170
ONE HOUR EACH

PREMIERES: 05/14/98 **STORY:** The retrospective features highlights from the show's nine seasons, but the finale remains a heavily guarded secret. Cocreator Larry David denies that the script on the Internet—in which the gang picks up and moves to L.A.—is the real deal. Many guest stars from past seasons are expected to reappear.

WHINE AND DINE

They tackled some mean cuisine, as food often spoiled the best-laid plans of Jerry and his pals. But our taste buds were always tickled when *Seinfeld* cooked up new ways of looking at everything from pizza to Pez. In this sweet and savory send-off, TV's top chefs and other masters of the culinary domain pay homage with a cavalcade of the comedy's comestibles.



KUNG PAO CHICKEN

EPISODE 99

This classic spicy Hunan-Szechuan dish from Martin Yan of PBS's *Yan Can Cook* is one part inspiration but most parts perspiration for George. Before consuming this mouth-watering meal, have on hand a Yankees team towel to blot beads of sweat from your forehead. A real hot tip? Break open one or more of the dried chili pods before adding them to the wok. It'll put more wow in your Pao.

¾ lb. boneless, skinless chicken,
cut into 1-inch pieces

Marinade

2 tbsp. oyster-flavored sauce
1 tsp. cornstarch

Sauce

¼ cup black vinegar or balsamic vinegar
¼ cup chicken broth
3 tbsp. rice wine or dry sherry
2 tbsp. hoisin sauce
1 tbsp. soy sauce
2 tsp. sesame oil

2 tsp. chili garlic sauce
2 tsp. sugar
2½ tbsp. cooking oil
8 small dried red chilies
4 tsp. minced garlic
2 ribs celery, diced
½ red bell pepper,
cut into 1-inch squares
½ cup diced bamboo shoots
2 tsp. cornstarch dissolved
in 1 tbsp. water
½ cup toasted walnut halves

Combine marinade ingredients in a bowl. Add chicken and stir to coat. Let stand for 10 minutes. Combine sauce ingredients in a bowl. Set aside. Place a wok over high heat until hot. Add 2 tbsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add chilies and cook, stirring until fragrant, about 10 seconds. Add chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Remove chicken and chilies from wok. Add ½ tsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 10 seconds. Add chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Remove chicken and chilies from wok. Add remaining tbsp. oil, swirling to coat sides. Add celery, bell pepper and bamboo shoots; stir-fry for 1 minute. Return chicken and chilies to wok; stir-fry for 1½ minutes. Add sauce and bring to a boil. Add cornstarch solution and cook, stirring until sauce boils and thickens. Add walnuts and toss to coat. Serves 4.

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GRANOLA CEREAL

VARIATION
ON A THEME

Why be confined by Messrs Post or Kellogg when there's an entire genre of grain to explore? Sara Moulton, *Gourmet Magazine* executive chef and host of *Cooking Live* on the Food Network, elevates this earthy snack to new heights with her crunchy creation. The ideal ratio of milk to cereal, says Moulton, is 1 to 1. Note: Make an extra batch in case you have a neighbor who likes to mooch.

⅔ cup honey
¼ cup canola oil
4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1 cup unsalted, shelled sunflower seeds
1 cup unsalted, whole natural almonds,
coarsely chopped
½ cup wheat germ
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. nutmeg
1½ cups raisins or dried cherries

Preheat oven to 325° F. In a saucepan, heat honey and oil until warm. In a large bowl, toss together oats, sunflower seeds, almonds, wheat germ, spices and honey-oil mixture. Spread mixture on 2 large baking sheets and bake for 10 minutes. Stir granola and bake for an additional 2 to 5 minutes or until golden. Let cool and toss with dried fruit. Makes about 7 cups.



BLACK AND WHITE COOKIE

EPISODE 74

Jerry had the whole world in his hand when he ordered this bicolored confection. Cookie king Marcel Desaulniers, author of *Death by Chocolate* and owner of the award-winning Trellis Restaurant in Williamsburg, Virginia, designed this recipe especially for TV GUIDE. Optional accompanying soundtrack: Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder's "Ebony and Ivory."

Dark chocolate cookie

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup nonfat buttermilk
- 8 oz. semisweet chocolate minimorsels

Dark chocolate icing

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 4 oz. semisweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, finely chopped

White chocolate icing

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 1/2 tbsp. whole milk
- 1 tbsp. pure vanilla extract

4 oz. quality white chocolate

Preheat oven to 375° F. In a sifter, combine flour, cocoa powder and salt. Sift onto large piece of wax paper and set aside until needed. Place 1 cup granulated sugar and butter in bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle. Beat on medium for 3 minutes, until smooth. Use a rubber spatula to scrape down sides of bowl, then continue

on medium for 30 seconds. Remove bowl from mixer and use a rubber spatula to finish mixing batter until combined. Using a large heaping tbsp. of batter for each cookie, portion 6 cookies, evenly spaced, onto each of 4 nonstick baking sheets. Place baking sheets on top and center racks of oven and bake for 10 minutes until tops no longer appear wet, rotating sheets from top to

center halfway through baking time (at the same time, turn each sheet 180°). Remove cookies from oven and cool on baking sheets for 30 minutes.

Preparing the dark chocolate icing

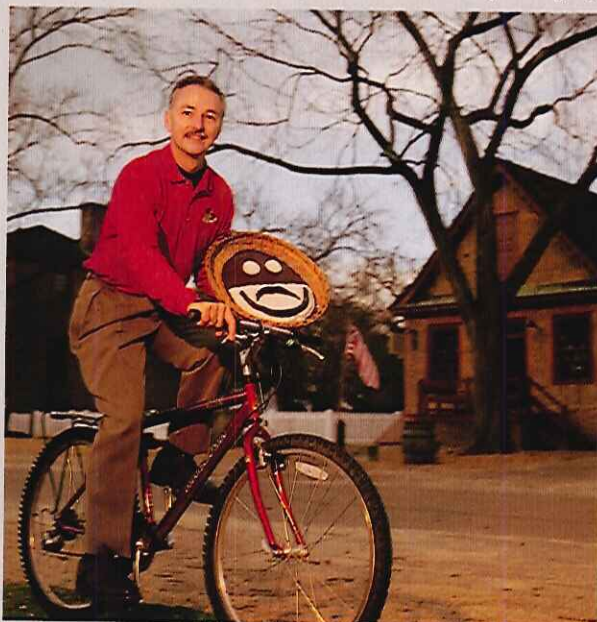
While cookies are cooling, heat heavy cream and 4 tbsp. granulated sugar in a 1 1/2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat. When hot, stir to dissolve sugar. Bring to a boil. Place semisweet chocolate and unsweetened chocolate in a 2-quart bowl. Pour boiling cream over chopped chocolate and stir with whisk until smooth. Set aside at room temperature while preparing white chocolate icing.

Preparing the white chocolate icing

Whisk together confectioners' sugar, whole milk and 1 tsp. vanilla in a 2-quart bowl until combined. Heat 1 inch of water in bottom half of double boiler over medium heat. With heat on, place white chocolate in top half of double boiler. Use a rubber spatula to stir chocolate until completely melted and smooth, about 3 minutes. Add melted white chocolate to confectioners' sugar mixture and use a whisk to mix vigorously until smooth.

Icing cookies

Ice cookies by spooning approximately 1 heaping tbsp. of dark chocolate icing over the surface of half of the underside of each cookie. Spoon approximately 1 slightly heaping tbsp. of white chocolate icing over remaining half of underside of each cookie. Makes 2 dozen cookies.



to beat on medium for 2 more minutes until very smooth. Scrape down bowl again. Add egg and 1 tsp. vanilla extract and beat on medium for 30 seconds. Scrape down bowl. In a 1-quart bowl whisk together hot water (110°F) and baking soda. Set aside for a few seconds. Operate mixer on low while first gradually adding sifted dry ingredients, then buttermilk, followed by hot water and baking soda mixture. Mix until incorporated, about 1 minute. Stop mixer, add chocolate morsels and mix

PAELLA A LA VALENCIANA

EPISODE 79

When the Costanzas invited the Seinfelds to their Queens home for paella, the evening turned into a game of guess who's not coming to dinner. This aromatic recipe from Mario Batali (pictured, with sous chefs Jude Affronti, center, and Puff Daddy Habetz, far right) of the Food Network's *Mediterranean Mario* serves at least eight but makes good leftovers if your guests are a no-show.

- 8 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp. saffron
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 1/2 to 3 lb. rabbit, cut into 8 pieces
- 8 chicken thighs
- 1 lb. chorizo, cut into 8 pieces
- 1 Spanish onion, chopped into 1/2-inch dice

- 1 red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 10 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 4 tomatoes, chopped into 1/2-inch cubes, juice and seeds reserved
- 3 tbsp. Spanish paprika
- 1/2 cup peas, shucked
- 1/2 cup Romano wax beans, cut into 1-inch lengths
- 2 pimientos, roasted and cut into 1/2-inch wide strips
- 3 cups Italian arborio rice
- 24 green Valencian olives

Heat chicken broth with saffron to a boil and keep warm. On two stove burners, place an 18-inch to 22-inch paella pan. Place 1/2 cup oil in pan and heat. Season rabbit pieces and chicken, place into pan, brown well and remove. Add chorizo, green and red pepper, garlic, tomatoes, paprika, peas, beans, pimientos and stir over medium heat for 4 to 5 minutes. Add rice and continue to stir for 3 minutes. Add chicken stock, rabbit, chicken pieces and olives and cook without stirring until rice is done and liquid is absorbed, about 20 minutes. Serve immediately. Serves 8.



BOUILLABAISSE

EPISODE 2

To avoid the parent trap, Jerry kept house with Kramer when the senior Seinfelds came to town. This zesty version of the classic Provençal dish, which Kramer concocted during Jerry's sojourn, comes from Emeril Lagasse, correspondent on ABC's *Good Morning America* and host of the Food Network's *Essence of Emeril*. *C'est magnifique!*

- 1 recipe bouillabaisse broth (see below)
- pinch saffron
- 1 cup leeks, julienned
- 3 cups peeled, seeded and chopped tomatoes
- juice and strips of zest from 1 orange
- 1 cup fennel, julienned
- 2 tbsp. chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley leaves
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 lbs. assorted small, whole, fresh fish from the Mediterranean, such as whiting, squid, sea bass
- 1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 lobster, about 1½ to 2 lbs.
- ½ lb. littleneck clams, scrubbed

- and rinsed
- ½ lb. mussels, scrubbed and rinsed
- 12 slices crusty French bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 recipe rouille (see below)



Put broth in a large, heavy pot on medium heat and bring to a gentle boil. Add saffron, leeks, tomatoes, orange juice, orange zest, fennel, garlic and parsley. Season with salt and pepper. Add fish and lobster. Cook for 8 minutes. Add shrimp, mussels and clams. Cook for 6 minutes or until shells have opened. Discard any shells that do not open. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer seafood to large, deep bowl. Cut lobster in half. Pour broth into bowl over seafood. Drizzle the rouille over bouillabaisse. Serve croutons on side. Serves 6.

Bouillabaisse broth

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onions
- ½ cup chopped celery
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 black peppercorns
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 1 lb. fish bones
- 8 to 10 cups water
- 1 cup dry white wine

Heat olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté for 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add bay leaf, peppercorns and thyme. Add fish bones, water and wine. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove from heat and strain. Makes 8 cups.

Rouille

- 1 medium red bell pepper, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 slice white bread, broken into pieces
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 tbsp. dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup olive oil

Combine pepper, garlic, bread, egg yolk, mustard and lemon juice in a food processor. Puree until smooth. With machine running, slowly add olive oil through feed tube. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Makes 1 cup.

MARBLE RYE

EPISODE 115

Everyone loses their marbles in this wry look at what happens when Susan's parents forget to serve the bread the Costanzas bring to dinner. This recipe comes from celebrated Jewish food writer Ethel Hofman, author of *Everyday Cooking for the Jewish Home*. Degift at your own risk.

- 2¼ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 1 tbsp. mashed potato flakes
- 1½ cups lukewarm water (105–110° F)
- 2 tbsp. honey
- ¼ oz. package plus 1 tsp. active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. gravy browning (such as Gravy Master)
- 2 tbsp. cornmeal
- 1 tsp. unsweetened cocoa

In a large bowl, mix the flours. Set aside. In a small bowl, combine potato flakes with ¼-cup water and honey. Microwave on high for 40 seconds. Mix well.

Refrigerate until lukewarm (about 10 minutes). Add remaining water and yeast and stir a few times to mix. Set aside until mixture is frothy, about 10 minutes. Stir yeast mixture. Pour 1 cup of this mixture and 1 tsp. oil into bowl of food processor. Add 2¼ cups of combined flours and salt. Process 40 seconds or until dough begins to leave the side of the bowl. Add more flour gradually if needed. Transfer to a well-oiled bowl, turning so that all sides are oiled. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, then a clean towel. Let rise in a warm, draft-free place until doubled (1 to 2 hours). Rinse processor bowl. Stir gravy browning and cocoa into remaining yeast mixture. Pour into processor bowl. Add 1 tsp. oil and ¾ cup flour mixture. Process 30 seconds or until dough begins to form a ball. If needed, add more flour as above. Transfer to a well-oiled bowl, turning so that all sides are oiled. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and a clean towel and let rise in a warm, draft-free place until almost doubled (1 to 2 hours). Turn the pale-colored dough onto a floured board. Punch down, knead 3 minutes and shape into a ¾-inch rectangle (about 10 by 6 inches). On a floured board, punch down the dark-colored dough. Knead 2 minutes. Shape into a roll about 3-inches wide. Place lengthwise on bottom half of dough rectangle. Press with fingers to bring towards center. Roll up as for a jelly roll. Pinch ends to seal. Brush with oil. Place on a baking sheet sprinkled with cornmeal or a greased 9 by 5-inch loaf pan. Cover loosely with wax paper and let rise again until almost doubled. With a sharp knife, make three crosswise slashes on top of loaf. Cover and let rise a few minutes longer. Bake in preheated 400°F oven for 40 minutes. Loaf is done when bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Cool thoroughly on a wire rack before slicing.



SEIN-ING OFF

WHO SAYS SEINFELDERS AREN'T SENTIMENTAL?

"Coming back for the last year definitely put a smile on my face. In the scenes with Jerry where comedy is in the air and flying, that's about as good a feeling as it gets." —*Stephen Hytner (Kenny Bania)*

"Maybe this show, after perhaps a year, will come back. Maybe it will just be in remission. Maybe Jerry will say, 'I've had my time away and it was wonderful, but I'm rested. I'm ready to come back.' Who knows. Anything can happen."
—*Jerry Stiller (Frank Costanza)*



"I was a little disappointed. I know Jerry said he wants to leave on top, being [the] No. 1 [sitcom]. But what's bad about leaving in a few years as No. 3?" —*Estelle Harris (Estelle Costanza)*



"Strangely enough, it's behind everybody's eyes. You can see it. There's an awful lot of hugging, and there's a lovely feeling. Everybody is more generous with their time. It's almost bittersweet. I'm afraid to think about it [ending]."
—*Liz Sheridan (Helen Seinfeld)*

"You can see the relief in Jerry now that the decision is made. You know it must have been killing him.... I'm devastated in the sense of not being able to go to work any more at Jerry's Place, as I call it."
—*Barney Martin (Morty Seinfeld)*

"Of course I was very sad to see it go. I tell ya, it's been such a great nine years for me that I can't dwell on that. I'm delighted to have been a part of it." —*Len Lesser (Uncle Leo)*

"At the Christmas party this past year, I think Jerry knew that it was going to be the last; we all had that feeling. It got to be late in the party, and Julia and Jerry were kind of fooling around; they got up in the catwalk above the soundstage, and they were operating the boom mikes like deep-sea fishermen pulling in marlin. And they both had cigars sticking out of their mouths, laughing. It is a pleasant moment that I will carry with me."
—*Wayne Knight (Newman)*



All right, sir General expression of agreement

Baldist One who is prejudiced against the follicly-challenged

The Beast Hideous, lingering body odor

The Chip-in A gift that everyone contributes money toward

Close talker One who leaves little space in face-to-face chatter

Degift To take back a present (particularly if the recipient is unappreciative)

Double-dip To redip a chip after biting (a big no-no)

Festivus Proposed nondenominational alternative to Christmas and Hanukkah

Get out! Utterance of disbelief; usually accompanied by a shove

Giddy-up! Substitute for "OK, let's do it!"

Hand Possessing more control than one's partner in a romantic relationship

WORDS OF HONOR

They leave us on good terms and with good terms. In case you're not caught up on your catchphrases, here's the recap on *Seinfeld* semantics. Giddy-up!

Low talker One who has difficulty reaching an audible level when speaking

Manfur Coat of animal hair worn by the human male

Master of your domain (See "*The Seinfeld Guide to Sex*," page 21)

Mimbo A male bimbo

Not that there's anything wrong with that Disclaimer used when one is wrongly suspected of being homosexual

Oh, Moses, smell the roses For God's sake, get a clue

The pesto of cities Seattle (as long as it is still in vogue)

Pop-in A quick visit

Serenity now! A relaxation mantra

Shiksappeal Charm possessed by a woman who is not Jewish

Sidler One who sidles up next to another

These pretzels are making me thirsty General expression of irritation

Yada, yada, yada Conversation glosser-over; similar to blah, blah, blah

You gotta see the baby Annoying refrain repeated by new parents

You are so good-looking Suggested replacement for "God bless you" after one has sneezed

*Each year, 6 out of 10 bridesmaids are
forced to wear fuchsia.*



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